Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-226 *26 November 1993*

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Costa Rica, Barbados Sign Cooperation Agreement

PA2011180593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2355 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] San Jose, 18 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Barbados and Costa Rica signed a five-year technical and commercial agreement geared toward the formation of an economic bloc between Central America and the Caribbean, the Foreign Ministry reported today. Warwick O. Franklin, Barbadian industry, trade, and commerce minister, and Roberto Rojas, his Costa Rican counterpart, signed the agreement in San Jose this Wednesday.

At the beginning of his official visit to Costa Rica, Franklin stated that the North American Free Trade Agreement "obliges the Caribbean and Central American nations to develop a greater rapport to participate in the development process that is just starting."

Rojas emphasized that "the Caribbean and Central America nations are natural allies in the struggle to develop and strengthen their economies." He emphasized that there is a possibility of establishing an economic bloc "with 30 million Central Americans and 20 million people of the Caribbean to find entry to the great North American market that has just begun. Our rapprochement with the Caribbean countries will advance a stronger political position to enter that great northern market (Mexico, Canada, and the United States) under advantageous conditions," Rojas added.

The agreement signed by Barbados and Costa Rica reflects both countries' interest in promoting trade and joint investments, and in exchanging economic, technical, and commercial information. The agreement also states that the signatory countries will establish a commercial agreement to facilitate access for commercial products in both countries.

UN Center Announces New ECLAC Director

FL2511182593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1748 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 25, CANA—American Daniel Blanchard is the new director of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area reported Thursday.

Blanchard has assumed duties at the ECLAC sub-regional headquarters in Port of Spain. Prior to his appointment, Blanchard joined the United Nations system in 1991 as a regional protection officer, in the office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). He also joined the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile, as assistant secretary general of the commission and later became secretary of the commission, a post he held for eleven years. As secretary, he worked to promote the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean, the information centre reported. He also directed and held responsibility for external relations with Latin America and the Caribbean member governments and inter-governmental organisations, it added.

Cuba

Cuban Delegation Issues Statement on Defections

FL2511130593 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Today our delegation issued an official declaration that states the position of the Cubans here on the defection of the people who were part of the sports delegation. I will read the entire note:

The defection of eight members of the delegation that represents our country in these Central American and Caribbean Games has been the object of great attention by the press, as usual, creating an uneasiness which is alien to the serene and firm position of the remaining 831 members of the delegation. The silence which the Cuban sports delegation has maintained until this moment corresponds to our expressed purpose to help with the success of the games by avoiding any incident that could distract attention from them.

An unequivocal proof of this statement is the presence in Ponce of the Olympic medal winners, whose performance in the competitions has set a world record and 24 Central American and Caribbean records.

Nevertheless, we understand that our silence has aroused the fantastic imagination of those who speak of hundreds, tens, or dozens of defectors and for that reason we have decided to make public the names of the defectors: Rioge Ramirez, a diver; Alfonso Lonate, an archer; Alfonso Donate Jr., an archer; Anibal Borroto, a protection officer; Julio Cesar Ramirez, a bow and arrow trainer; Ana Zuleiqui Santiago, a markswoman; Drianey Santiago, [word indistinct] athlete; and Secundino Amaya, a photojournalist.

Of these halfwits, we say—as Jose Marti would say—it is not worthwhile talking about Cubans that do not love the fatherland. It is enough to say that in response to their lack of dignity and courage to confront the difficulties that Cuba faces today, which we do not deny but understand the causes of, our delegation has obtained more than nine gold medals and approximately three silver and two bronze for each one of them.

Just 27 years ago, efforts were made to keep Cuba from participating in the 10th Games held in Puerto Rico. The Cuban members of the historic delegation of Cerro Pelado were willing to swim here to fulfill the commitment [words indistinct]. The decision at this historic moment of all worthy and patriotic Cubans is: With Cuba forever!

Signed: Cuban Delegation

Council of Ministers Official Comments

PA2511140493 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Nov 93

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, Cuban Council of Ministers vice president, has said in Havana that the eight defectors of the Cuban delegation to the 17th Central American and Caribbean Games betrayed their commitment of honor with the island's people. They know that they committed actions that we all repudiate and are indignant of any consideration, Fernandez told the media in this capital, where he welcomed back the Cuban women's volleyball team, which won the Big Four Tournament in Hong Kong and the Intercontinental Cup of Champion Clubs in Tokyo.

Fernandez said that counterrevolutionary citizens are inciting our country's athletes to seek asylum in Ponce, Puerto Rico, in violation of the norms and spirit of sports competitions.

An official communique issued by the Cuban delegation attending the games in Ponce reads that the defection of eight of its members created only expectations in view of the serene and firm attitude of the rest of the delegation. The document adds that the silence maintained so far on these desertions was to avoid tarnishing the success of the games and to prevent any incident that could divert attention from them.

Attempts To Subvert Games Participants Described

FL2411145393 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Interview with Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, upon his return from the 1993 Central American and Caribbean Games in Ponce, Puerto Rico; by reporter Julio Gomez in Havana on 23 November on the "First Thing" program—recorded]

[Text] [Fernandez] Undoubtedly, the most acclaimed delegation was the Puerto Rican delegation, which was to be expected. The only other delegation to receive a standing ovation, with cheers and banners against the blockade and of solidarity for Cuba, was our delegation. None of the other delegations received a standing ovation or any other noteworthy acclaim. I believe this expression of solidarity with our people, the expression of friendship, affection, and recognition for our Revolution and athletes is the most significant thing that happened during the inaugural ceremony.

[Gomez] Fernandez, we also wanted to ask you about other activities unrelated to sports. For example, the propaganda against Cuba; some attacks on our athletes; and all types of aggression. What can you tell us about these aggressions?

[Fernandez] It is true. There have been aggressions. There is an airplane flying around displaying a telephone number and the authorities have promised that, if necessary, they will take extreme measures to stop it. They [not further identified] have also distributed cards that read: "Cubans, decide now!" These cards have telephone

numbers that are not in service. You call the number and no one answers. People have tried to contact our athletes in many cases.

Last night several Cuban athletes were interviewed on the radio. They complained that several counterrevolutionaries had approached them offering all kinds of things to get them to defect. Some of the placards have been painted over by mysterious hands, persons who appear at night and then disappear.

To say that the leaders, authorities, or the group as a whole has seen a demonstration at the playing fields, or to say that we have been able to identify a worm in these types of activities, would be a lie. We have not seen anyone. I, myself, was bothered quite a bit by phone calls. They called me at least 20 times. We recorded them. They call and say nothing and then you hear a beep, then a busy signal, then it begins ringing again. That was at the Ponce Hilton.

Undoubtedly some counterrevolutionary worms have jobs in various departments within the villa. They do not show hostility openly but we know they are approaching the athletes and trying to persuade them to abandon the fatherland.

State of Emergency Declared Due to Heavy Rains

FL2511144893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Bulletin No. 2 issued by National Civil Defense General Staff on 24 November; place not given —read by Ana Margarita Gil]

[Text] According to the Weather Institute, the rainfall affecting the eastern sectors of the country will continue throughout the afternoon of 25 November. Because of the heavy rains, a state of emergency has been declared in the following areas: In Holguin Province, the Frank Pais, (Tagua de Tanamo), and Moa Municipalities; in Santiago de Cuba Province, the Santiago de Cuba, Segundo Frente, and (Tongolamaya) Municipalities. The rest of the Santiago de Cuba municipalities and 10 municipalities in Guantanamo Province continue on state of alert. The main measures adopted include the mobilization of defense councils in 22 municipalities of the affected provinces and 175 defense zones.

As of 2200, 18,183 people and 5,100 domestic animals have been evacuated. It has been reported that many rivers and streams have overflowed, that several roads are blocked, and that 1,155 homes are damaged, 11 of them destroyed. The heavy rainfalls have affected practically all of Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo provinces and the three most eastern municipalities in Holguin Province. That large area, approximately 13,600 sq km, is home to more than 1.820 million people. Almost all area reservoirs are overflowing. The situation in Santiago de Cuba is improving.

The worst situation is reported in Guantanamo Province and the Frank Pais and (Tagua de Tanamo) Municipalities in Holguin Province. In Guantanamo, the constant and heavy rainfall has resulted in the flooding of the Guaso, (Haibo), and Guantanamo rivers and their tributaries. Large areas of Guantanamo, Niceto Perez, and Caimaneras have been inundated.

In light of the situation, which may continue throughout the next few hours, the defense councils in the affected provinces and municipalities are concentrating their efforts on rescue and salvage tasks as well as instructing the people on what to do.

It has been reported that 20-year-old Lourdes Lores Sanchez was electrocuted in (Melena Canaloa), Frank Pais Municipality, and that 26-year-old Antonio Lopez is missing. The last place he was seen was on the Arroyo Seco bridge, Mayari Municipality.

People should refrain from crossing rivers that have overflowed, avoid flooded areas, and avoid touching downed cables. Be alert to instructions issued by the local authorities and ready to help with cleaning and reconstruction as weather permits.

Signed: Major (Alberto Lewis)

Bulletin Reports 18 Dead, 10 Missing

FL2511190593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Bulletin No. 4 issued by the National Civil Defense General Staff on 25 November; place not given—read by unidentified speaker]

[Text] Guantanamo Province continues on state of alert because of the heavy rain falling over the area. In Holguin Province, the Sagua de Tanamo, Moa, Frank Pais, and Mayarit Municipalities continue on state of alert.

At 0925 the president of the Santiago de Cuba Defense Council ordered that the recovery phase be implemented in Santiago de Cuba, Segundo Frente, and (Tongolamaya) Municipalities. The other municipalities that had been placed in a state of alert have been normalized. Many defense councils continue active.

Preliminary reports show that 44,772 people were evacuated; 12,142 animals have been moved to safer sites. It has been learned that 2,823 homes have been partially damaged and 194 totally destroyed. We have learned that seven people have died and seven are missing in Holguin Province and that 11 people have been injured and three are missing in Guantanamo Province. Work is underway to determine losses in agriculture, roads, and services in general.

The National Civil Defense General Staff advises the residents of these provinces to remain alert to changes in the weather and follow, with discipline, all instructions

issued by the defense councils and to follow the necessary orders. Avoid flooded areas, do not cross overflowing rivers or streams, and do not touch electric wires.

Meanwhile, members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Interior Ministry, and civil defense are continuing their rescue and salvage operations throughout the affected areas. According to the Weather Institute, the weather is slowly improving.

Damage in Guantanamo Province

FL2511192293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] As of late this morning there was no official report on loss of life and damage caused by the rains in Guantanamo Province. Reports are still coming in and the information may not be reliable. However, I can say that the residents of this province cannot remember the last time so much rain fell over the area in three days. The main rivers that cross Guantanamo City and south central towns of the province have overflowed and swept away dozens of homes. Some families were swept away with their homes. Huge areas of cultivated land are under water and many fields planted with sugarcane and other crops have been destroyed. The main bridges over the rivers that cross Guantanamo City, the fifth most populated in the country, were seriously damaged by the strong currents and only one bridge can be used by those who need to cross the city.

When the heavy May rains fell over the area, the people said that this happened only once every 100 years; however, nature has proven this wrong. Only 177 days after severe floods affected the area in May and June, we are experiencing an even worse situation.

In Guantanamo Valley, the driest area in the country where the provincial capital and the Niceto Perez Municipality are located, approximately 600 mm of rain have fallen between Monday and Wednesday: in other words, a whole year's average rainfall for that area. The top party and government leaders in Guantanamo are visiting the most affected areas while the evacuation of people and rescue and salvage operations continue.

Rescate de Sanguily Maneuvers Conclude in Camaguey

FL2511170093 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] The Rescate of Sanguily tactical maneuvers, during which live ammunition was used, ended today in Camaguey Province. Knowledge of weapons, creativity, and reasonable use of resources became evident during the maneuvers. The concluding ceremony was held at the Revolutionary Armed Forces' [FAR] Major General Ignacio Agramonte Firing Range in Camaguey, where the participants exchanged experiences. Difficult and varied missions were carried out despite the bad weather. This exercise was characterized by the combined use of various weapons and the use of helicopters and airplanes. All the objectives were reached with efficiency, speed, and creativity, and the simulated enemy was annihilated. Even though the weather represented a problem, it helped demonstrate the high level of troop training and the good technical state of the equipment. The exercise included inspections of several Camaguey municipalities within the plan for declaring these areas ready for defense in the second phase. Meanwhile, a Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces commission inspected Guantanamo Province.

At the conclusion of the exercise a group of officers, sergeants, and soldiers was promoted or received awards for outstanding participation in defense tasks and the maneuvers. Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chief of General Staff, talked about the many tasks carried out by the FAR and said:

[Begin recording] We have seen the chiefs of small units efficiently use new tactical ideas and weapons. I believe that if there is something we can stress at this moment as characteristic of these activities, it would have to be the material efficiency [words indistinct] to prepare our troops in accordance with the creative ideas of our leaders. We are pleased to see that the many activities that were carried out did not entail huge expenses or logistic support. This means that we are much more efficient. [end recording]

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 22 to 25 Nov

FL2511170493

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 22 and 25 November.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 22 November reports that the (Sorbitol) plant at the Ernesto Agramonte Sugar Mill in Florida, Camaguey has produced 320 tons of that product since it began its test period in August. Preparations are made to begin production of 10,000 tons of (Sorbitol), annually.

Radio Reloj at 2049 GMT on 22 November reports that the first bottling plant for natural juices and milk under aseptic conditions to be built in Cuba with joint capital was inaugurated in the Heroes de Giron Citrus Complex in Jaguey Grande Municipality, Matanzas. The plant, named "Tropical Island" (in English), has Swedish technology and is capable of bottling 3,600 liters per hour in cardboard containers. The Chilean Injelco S.A. and the Jaguey Grande Citrus Enterprise will be in charge of bottling and marketing fruit juices, nectars, and water.

Cuba Vision at 0100 GMT on 23 November reports that fish farm workers in Pinar del Rio Province have harvested 1,090 tons of freshwater fish from provincial reservoirs this year. Their goal is to attain 1,300 tons by the end of the 1993 or a 22 percent growth in comparison with 1992. As result of a population needs study, plans are being drafted to develop fish farms in order to supply at least 12 kg of freshwater fish for each person.

Radio Rebeldde at 1000 GMT on 23 November reports that Switzerland has donated $30,000 for reconstruction of the Bethlehem Plaza in La Habana Vieja. Camaguey Province has 36 livestock Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC's], with formation continuing.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 23 November reports that a donation the EEC consists of four containers loaded with 32 tons of rice, powdered milk, soap, canned meats, oil, and grains. The Saturnino Lora and Mariana Grajales hospitals in Santiago de Cuba were the recipients of this donation.

Cuba Vision Network at 2320 GMT on 23 November reports that Mexican optometrist and friend of Cuba Roberto Raso made a personal donation of 5,000 pencils to school children of Rio Naranjo Municipality, Havana City Province, and expressed his willingness to help with frames and eyeglasses for those with vision problems.

Radio Reloj at 2045 GMT on 24 November reports that as of the end of October, the Isle of Youth had produced exportable resources and brought in hard currency worth more than 27.099 million pesos.

Radio Reloj at 2056 GMT on 24 November reports that young Villa Clara engineer Nestor Perez Perez has made a plethysmograph that is working satisfactorily at the Villa Clara Province Clinical/Surgical Hospital. Patients from Cienfuegos and Sancti Spiritus also benefit from this equipment, which sells for $3,000 by U.S., Israeli, and German firms. Perez obtained the electronic design of the apparatus.

Cuba Vision Network at 2320 GMT on 24 November reports that the Cienfuegos honey-loading terminal, which is approximately 60 years old and was built by the Americans at the beginning of the century, is being repaired efficiently. Cuba had managed to keep the terminal's pumping system operative until last year, but with a gradual loss of efficiency. The installation of two pumps will allow things heretofore impossible and speed terminal operations. The honey harvested in Cienfuegos is exported mostly to Europe, although some is distributed to Cuban distilleries or used domestically for animal feed.

In the same newscast, Cuba Vision reports that the work of expanding the Holguin airport is coming along well. A new terminal and fuel storage base are under construction and a more modern lighting system is installed. It is not known when the work at the Holguin international terminal will be finished, but the other work should be finished within the first quarter of 1994. The Frank Pais Airport in Holguin receives 16 scheduled international flights per week, mostly as a result of the developing tourism. The Canadians have the most flights, and the number is to increase during the current winter season.

Cuba Vision at 0100 GMT on 25 November reports that the construction of more oil pipelines will make it cheaper and safer to supply the Cienfuegos industrial area with fuel. In the past, underwater lines have been used.

The same newscast reports that fish farming in Ciego de Avila has increased under the province's aquaculture plan. The fry produced will be used to restock the Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus, and Ciego de Avila reservoirs. The PRC is cooperating in the work at the Moron Municipality fish farm, the second largest in the country. This cooperation will be increased in 1994.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Launches Drive To Export Food Products to U.S.

FL2411190593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1813 GMT 24 Nov 93

[By Pamela Gill]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 24, CANA—The Barbados Investment and Development Corporation and the Caricom Export Development Project (CEDP) on Wednesday announced a major marketing thrust aimed at exporting more Caribbean specialty foods and fresh produce to the U.S. market. At the opening of an export seminar, BIDC Chief Executive Officer Dr. Lawson Nurse told CANA that Caricom (the Caribbean Community) was looking to tap into the US400 billion dollar food market to earn valuable foreign exchange."Trade in specialty foods and ethnic produce is an ideal area through which we can advance cooperation in the Caribbean and beyond and at the same time exploit opportunities for increasing expokt earnings," Nurse said. He said Caricom was also tapping the market because specialty fruit and fresh produce were the fastest growing industry, surpassing manufacturing and textiles and there was great potential for Caricom products. "There is now a great demand for unique Caribbean products in the areas of specialty foods, condiments, and fresh fruits and vegetables. We have experienced this demand in the United States, in Canada and more recently as well in the United Kingdom," Nurse reported.

He said BIDC and CEDP had conducted a test market run aimed at introducing Caribbean foods to the Canadian market, and had been instrumental in launching a number of Barbadian products on the market. "These products include fruits, juices and preservatives and one of the real successes has been the introduction of tiger malt, which is now being introduced on a small franchise basis on the Canadian markets," he said. He reported that Caricom was also looking to extend the export drive

to include areas such as information technology and Caribbean art, with Barbados to host an exhibition for 27 local artist at the Organisation of American States Gallery at month-end.

Antilles

Prime Minister Resigns as Coalition Crumbles

FL2511204593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1933 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Nov 25, CANA—Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Maria Liberia-Peters, tendered her resignation Thursday, as her coalition government continued to crumble, officials here reported. The announcement of the resignation came after withdrawals left the prime minister without majority support in the national parliament.

Informed sources here said Governor General Jaime Saleh, to whom the letter of resignation was submitted, would most likely ask the prime minister to stay on in a caretaker capacity until general elections are called. Elections, set for February 25, may be held a lot earlier, they said.

Edward Heerenven, the prime minister's official spokesman, said in an interview late Tuesday that Liberia-Peters had crucial meetings with her PNP party colleagues this week in a bid to keep the coalition going.

The latest crisis was prompted by Rudy Ellis, the leader of Bonaire's UPB (Progressive Union of Bonaire) party, who on Monday night told the prime minister he felt the government should step down and set up a business cabinet to run the affairs of government for the remainder of its term. In an interview with the CHRONICLE newspaper, Ellis said the outcome of Curacao's referendum—with voters saying the island should stay in a restructured Netherlands Antilles and not opt for autonomy as most politicians had suggested. He said in light of this, and the decision to postpone a conference on the future of the islands and the Netherlands, it no longer made sense to keep the government in place.

Ellis argued that he had only agreed to continue supporting the PNP during the last coalition crisis in October, because it was felt that it would be necessary to have the central government remain in place so that the conference could take place as planned in December. But since the conference has now been postponed at the request of the Antillean Government, he said he saw no further need to keep the Liberia-Peters administration in place.

The prime minister's precarious hold on government was further eroded Monday night after Curacao's Senator Betto Thomas announced his pullout from the PNP party, in the wake of Curacao's constitutional referendum. Thomas had defected from the party position in favour of Option B (a form of status apart) to join the movement for continuing with a restructured Netherlands Antilles of Five (Option A), which swept the referendum with an overwhelming majority.

Following the latest shifting of loyalties, Liberia-Peters was left with only nine firm supporters in the 22-seat Antillean Parliament: her six remaining PNP seats, independent Senator Winston Laurens of Curacao, Millicent de Weever of St. Maarten, and Senator Kenneth van Putten of the St. Eustatius Democratic Party.

De Weever had announced last month that she would only support the coalition in matters which would be of benefit to St. Maarten, but she confirmed this week that she would support Liberia-Peters in a vote of no-confidence because she saw no justification for sending the government home and replacing it with a business cabinet at this late stage.

Haiti

Malval To Meet With Cedras, Seeks 'Common Strategy'

FL2411175993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Passages within quotation marks in Creole]

[Excerpts] The government has taken a new political initiative in order to emerge from the crisis. At the beginning of the week, Prime Minister Robert Malval started a series of meetings with the opposition and professional sectors. Several political leaders were invited to meet with the Haitian prime minister at his residence. We also learned that a meeting is scheduled for 25 November between the prime minister and General Raoul Cedras. Rothschild Francois, Jr. summarizes the first meetings between Robert Malval and members of the political leadership:

[Francois] Prime Minister Robert Malval has decided to listen to the various political and social forces of the country. His objective is to draft a common strategy to face the crisis. To that end, the government initiated a series of meetings with allied and opposition political leaders. The government is also talking with professional organizations, human rights organizations, and the private sector. The government intends to meet with the military before the end of the week. Rene Theodore and Hubert de Ronceray have already participated in meetings held at Prime Minister Robert Malval's private residence. The government spokesman indicates that through this initiative the government intends to get a more precise idea of the thinking of the various national sectors regarding a solution to the crisis. Government spokesman Emile Jean-Baptiste:

[Begin recording] [Jean-Baptiste] "As long as we do not find an internal solution, the sanctions will remain. This is an initiative by the government to meet with all sectors

in the country: political parties, professional groups, and all the forces in the country, including the Army, in order to seek a solution.

[Francois] "Does the government agree with the broadening of the team?

[Jean-Baptiste] "It is not on the daily agenda. For the three months since the government was appointed, the same question has been asked. We have answered the same thing: In principle, we are not against it, but after the return of the president.

[Francois] "Does the government count in those meetings?

[Jean Baptiste] "Yes, as long as it is not 12 ministers who are able to solve all the country's problems. The more people get involved in it, the more quickly we can find a solution, I believe.

[Francois] "When will you have a definitive idea of a solution that could be drawn from those meetings?

[Jean-Baptiste] "We do not have a specific time. We are talking. The government has been talking since it was appointed and will continue doing so.

[Francois] "Will talks continue during the week?

[Jean-Baptiste] "Yes, they will continue." [end recording]

[Francois] [passage omitted] The commerce minister, who participated in the meeting, points out the importance of this approach. Louis Dejoie II, who leads the National Agricultural Industrial Party, PAIN, favors broadening the government to other political sectors.

[Begin recording] [Dejoie] It is the only worthwhile approach to extract the country from crisis. It is necessary to talk to all the political leaders, all the political personalities who are part of this medley in order to extract the country from this crisis.

[Francois] Do you favor broadening the government to other sectors?

[Dejoie] Without doubt. The prime minister said so, too. I believe that we all share that opinion: It is a government of concord. It is necessary to include the people who want to participate in order to make a state of law. [end recording]

It should be noted that the prime minister could meet tomorrow with the Army commander in chief, Gen. Raoul Cedras. The meeting, if it takes place, will be at the prime minister's residence and should be on the political crisis and the means of emerging from it as soon as possible.

Parliamentary Blocs Await Invitations to Talks

FL2411233493 Port-au-Prince•Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] In parliament on 23 November, the presidents of the political blocs had not yet received invitations to participate in the talks. The vice president of the Chamber of Deputies, Yves Pericles Beauge, nevertheless welcomed this government initiative. He answers Edner Jean's questions:

[Begin recording] It is not too late to do the right thing. This is something that should have been done way before this, before 30 October, directly following the appointment of this government, whose duty was to increase the number of these meetings to achieve a political truce for social appeasement. It is necessary to meet the range of leaders, from left to right, and the pressure groups, to reassure them and to listen to their views on the crisis so we might find a solution to this long-term crisis.

These kinds of meetings are not bad. I think they will be held with great honesty and sincerity. No one will play cat-and-mouse, or give one another a hard time. [end recording]

Malval Quoted on Government 'Bankruptcy'

FL2411171893 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1300 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Mobilization for National Development leader Hubert de Ronceray met with Prime Minister Robert Malval on 23 November on the national political crisis. De Ronceray, at Tropic FM's microphone on 23 November, said the Malval government has declared bankruptcy.

[Begin recording] [De Ronceray] Mr. Malval invited me to inform me that his government is very worried about the country's situation, which is deteriorating from day to day, and that between now and next month the government will not be able to pay [state employees]; the bank is in a state of bankruptcy. It is a catastrophe. We must definitely find a way [to resolve the crisis] because the situation is grave.

[Unidentified journalist] Why did he invite you?

[De Ronceray] He invited me, but I suppose it was not only me because, according to what I understood, he was to receive the military command and parliament members. So I suppose it is not only me [that he invited].

[Journalist] What was the result of the discussion?

[De Ronceray] To tell the truth, no conclusion was reached except an acknowledgement of failure, an acknowledgement of a total collapse of the national economy, a kind of call by Malval to us for proposals because, he said, he wanted to meet with various sectors on the eve of his trip to the United States to talk with international authorities. He said he would even go to Washington. He might go to the White House, as well. So

he would like us to make recommendations that he could submit to international authorities.

[Journalist] It should be pointed out that De Ronceray is a fierce partisan of Article 149 of the Constitution, which provides for elections within 45 or 90 days with one of the most senior judges at the Court of Cassation. [end recording]

Rural Aristide Supporters Suffer Repression

FL2411211093 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1300 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Report by Mirebalais Correspondent Charite Andre—recorded]

[Excerpt] Repression and attacks continue against supporters of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in La Selle, a rural section of Saut D'Eau. Several peasants told us that a number of civilian police auxiliaries and deputy sheriffs [chouket lawoze] are sowing terror in the area. Everyone [as heard] has been forced to flee to the bush.

According to the same peasants, the civilian police auxiliaries are beating them and even arresting them because they are lavalas supporters and speak of President Aristide's return. The civilian police auxiliaries are also reportedly extorting the peasants, asking them for money. [passage omitted]

St. Lucia

Banana Growers Association Board Resigns

FL2411190693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1834 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Nov 24, CANA—The interim board of the St Lucia Banana Growers Association (SLBGA) has resigned, a statement from the association announced Wednesday. "The resignations clear the way and give Cabinet the opportunity to appoint a new and re-constitutto take charge of the affairs of the association and the industry as a whole," the statement added. It said the retirement of certain members of the SLBGA management team would also be announced, but did not say when they would take effect.

The board's resignation was reported to be by majority decision and followed the voluntary quitting of two directors, Christopher Cox and John Joseph. The two men were re-appointed from the last board which was dissolved by the Cabinet following a three-day banana farmers strike here last month.

The Banana Salvation Committee, a pressure group comprising prominent banana farmers, had demanded the resignation of the two members of the former board and is threatening to strike for the second time in as many months on November 30th. The farmers grouping has also called for changes in the contract between marketers Geest Industries and the Windward Islands.

The outgoing interim board has appealed to growers to try to maintain "order and calm" in the banana industry, so that, "progress can continue to be made. The problems of the (banana) association are prodigious, but the industry, which has meant so much to St Lucia, can be saved. So let us work together for the good of all," the interim board added.

Mexican Commerce Secretary Discusses NAFTA

PA2511174893

[Editorial Report] Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish at 0435 GMT on 22 November carries an 89-minute "special program" featuring a call-in show with Jaime Serra Puche, secretary of commerce and industrial development, conducted by journalist Jacobo Zabludovsky at the station's studios in Mexico City.

Zabludovsky initially asks Serra Puche to comment on the fact that Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, the presidential candidate for the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, has declined his invitation to debate the North American Free Trade Agreement. Serra Puche answers: "I find it regrettable that a person who wants to lead this country and who made very serious and strong criticisms against NAFTA—saying that it was not properly negotiated—should not take advantage of the opportunity to participate in an open and public debate in which he could express his views and give me the opportunity to rebut his ideas."

Zabludovsky then mentions Cardenas' allegations that NAFTA was negotiated secretly, behind the people's backs and that it was not openly debated as in the United States. Serra Puche replies: "The public is aware of the fact that NAFTA has been debated daily during the past two years." He says: "I have personally participated, as well as other members of the Commerce Secretariat, in numerous seminars and conferences in which the subject has been widely debated." He then cites specific examples of documents published by the Commerce Secretariat to keep the public well-informed about the negotiations and the treaty, including the complete text of the treaty, which is available both in print and on diskettes that can be used in personal computers. He also says that the treaty "was fully explained, section by section, chapter by chapter in all of the local newspapers;" furthermore, he adds: "We have established a telephone consultation system that has been working for several months," and "we can also send chapters or parts of the treaty by fax."

Zabludovsky then proceeds to read questions received through the station's telephone lines. He identifies the caller before reading each question.

A 15-year old boy asks: "How will NAFTA benefit the youth in the future?" Serra Puche responds: "NAFTA will enable us to establish a more efficient economic system that will give our country more possibilities of increasing our exports; in other words, our country will be able to export more products to the U.S. and Canadian markets, with preferences regarding other countries in the world." He adds: "As we become more efficient and offer good-quality products at competitive prices, our exports will grow. Mexican youths will have better job opportunities in the future to produce and contribute to our country's growth and to enter international markets."

Replying to the question "how will the treaty benefit the agricultural sector," Serra Puche says: "The agriculture and livestock sector in the United States, Canada, and Mexico will experience a gradual integration; in other words, agricultural products will be exported gradually in accordance with the treaty. In the specific case of grains—corn, wheat, beans—our market will be opened gradually. It will take us 15 years to open our markets for corn and beans, meaning Mexican corn and bean producers will have time to increase their productivity through the Pro-Campo Program President Salinas announced a few weeks ago to help national producers. An area in which we have great possibilities of entering the U.S. market for climatic reasons is the fruit and vegetable market. We will be able to increase our agricultural exports while farmers gradually adapt to the treaty conditions."

Another caller asks: "Could NAFTA cause peso devaluation?" to which Serra Puche answers: "By no means. NAFTA is a long-term instrument that will enable us to increase our exports and strengthen our currency and economy." On the same subject, the next question reads: "Will the Mexican economy be more linked to the dollar with NAFTA's implementation, and are there plans to establish an exchange rate based on international trade conditions?" Serra Puche responds: "The monetary policy—in other words, the relation between the peso and the dollar—is based on the pact. It has given excellent results in the past few years since 1987, when the Pact for Stability and Economic Growth, which you may recall was known as the Pact of Economic Solidarity, was instituted. We will continue with the same monetary policy."

When a caller asks Serra Puche why NAFTA was not subject to a plebiscite, Serra Puche says: "Our system does not contemplate plebiscites; there are no plebiscites in Mexico." He adds: "It will be, however, subject to the Mexican Senate's approval 22 November."

Zabludovsky continues to read some of the callers' questions on various aspects of the treaty, which Serra Puche answers briefly. Zabludovsky asks "How will NAFTA affect international organizations?" Serra Puche responds: "NAFTA is an instrument for the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Because the three countries are GATT members, we have made sure that NAFTA is absolutely consistent with the rules established by GATT; therefore, there should be no inconsistency."

Zabludovsky asks: "What role will Pemex play in NAFTA, particularly in the areas of gas and the basic petrochemical industry?" Serra Puche answers: "As you know, our Constitution specifies that the gas and basic petrochemical industries are areas exclusively handled by the state. You may recall that this subject emerged in the debates during the negotiation process, when people asked if oil products would be included in the agreement. NAFTA does not include basic petrochemical products

or gas; therefore, our country maintains total independence to make decisions in those areas."

Zabludovsky asks: "Will the benefits we receive from the United States and Canada through the General Preference System, SGP, disappear? How will NAFTA benefit the assembly industry?" Serra Puche responds: "The SGP is a system under which Mexican export products have certain preferences; in other words, if a Brazilian exporter pays 10 percent, we pay nothing. The problem is that we have certain limits in order not to pay duties. For example, we can export up to 1,000 pencils without paying duties, no more. What NAFTA will do is consolidate the SGP; in other words, we will continue to export all of those duty free products we are exporting to the United States. The difference is, however, that we will not have a limit of 1,000 pencils. We will be able to export without any limits; therefore, this will be a great advantage for those who are now using the SGP. The assembly industry will continue, as it has been an important source of employment in our country."

Zabludovsky asks: "Can you guarantee that in the long run Mexico will not become a U.S. state as Puerto Rico?" Serra Puche responds: "We are talking about a free trade agreement, in which we are simply eliminating taxes on U.S. products that enter Mexico, and vice versa, as well as eliminating quotas on Mexican products that enter the United States. We are talking about two different things altogether."

Zabludovsky asks: "What will happen if Canada wants to renegotiate the agreement, or if it is not ratified?" Serra Puche answers: "We have been very clear on this. Under no circumstances will the Mexican Government renegotiate NAFTA. The final text is the one already published. That is the final text; there will be no renegotiation whatsoever."

Zabludovsky asks: "Why did Salinas' administration sign a treaty without having the same political, economic, financial, and scientific infrastructure as the United States and Canada?" Serra Puche says: "What we have done with the treaty is establish a transition period that will last 15 years to give time to our productive sectors and our physical and financial infrastructure to become more competitive and equal with the United States and Canada. There will be a transition process that will give us time to do things."

Zabludovsky asks: "What is the relation between NAFTA and other treaties or agreements signed with other countries in Latin America? Another question, what is the meaning of dumping in the NAFTA negotiations?" Serra Puche answers: "In response to the first question, we have negotiated a free trade agreement with Chile, which has yielded excellent results. We are about to end negotiations with Colombia and Venezuela within the so-called Group of Three, and we are also negotiating with Central America. Those negotiations have nothing to do with NAFTA; they are independent actions and different programs and treaties that are not linked to NAFTA. As for the second question on dumping, NAFTA has established the rules to prevent the shipping of Canadian or U.S. products under the dumping system, in other words, below their actual cost or below their sale price in the United States. The treaty will not permit this. NAFTA has clauses that have banned dumping."

Zabludovsky asks: "How does NAFTA guarantee our sovereignty?" Serra Puche replies: "NAFTA is absolutely consistent with the principles established in our Constitution. It absolutely respects our nation's sovereignty, as it does not impose on our country any supranational mechanism that will oversee the development of our economy. All the rules and necessary autonomy are maintained to guarantee that our country will determine its own economic policy and forge its own destiny. Our country will simply avail itself of the opportunities offered in the U.S. and Canadian markets through the elimination of customs duties and taxes."

A caller from Mexico City asks: "What would happen if the United States, based on international law, decides to terminate the agreement?" Serra Puche, quoting NAFTA Article 2205, says that any one of the three signatory countries may withdraw from the agreements "with a written six-month notice," highlighting that "this is a clause that all international agreements contain, for obvious reasons."

Zabludovsky reads several more questions regarding viewers' specific areas of interest, to each of which Serra Puche responds briefly. In most cases, Serra Puche stresses that the transition period "will be gradual," responding to an apparent concern as to the agreement's immediate effects. Regarding a question about possible changes in health and social security services, Serra Puche states that "all state social security services will remain unchanged, while private health service will have to compete within the North American market."

"What concessions," one viewer asks, "did Canada, the United States, and Mexico make?" Serra Puche responds: "In Mexico we opened up an 85-million consumers market to Canadian and U.S. products. The Canadians opened their market to Mexican and U.S. products, while the Americans opened their market to Mexican and Canadian products. This means that all of us opened our own market to gain access to each others'."

Regarding such cases as the U.S. tuna embargo, Serra Puche said that "the treaty establishes a mechanism in which there will no longer be space for unilateral decisions by the United States or Canada blocking our exports." He explains that, in accordance with the agreement, "if the United States were to unjustly ban our tuna, a panel of five individuals would meet and confirm that the decision was in fact inappropriate. The United States would then have to reopen its borders to Mexican tuna exports."

Zabludovsky presents a viewer's question regarding the immigration issue. Serra Puche clarifies that "NAFTA

negotiations do not include the free movement of people" among the three countries. "If the United States were to impose a trade embargo against a third country," asks another viewer, "would Mexico have to adhere to it?" Serra Puche responds with a flat "no," and adds: "Mexico reserves absolute independence in its commercial or economic relations with other countries."

Quoting a Mexican manufacturer who supplies Mexican Petroleum, Pemex, with valves and pumps and owns a registered trademark, Zabludovsky asks: "Why does Mexico give U.S. manufacturers preference" in this market "when his product is cheaper than the U.S. products." Serra Puche explains that "Pemex holds bid contests and purchases from those suppliers who offer the better price and quality."

Revisiting the Cuauhtemoc Cardenas issue, a viewer asks "what will happen if Cardenas rises to power and does not recognize NAFTA?" Serra Puche recalls the six-month notice requirement and adds: "I expect that, before such a decision is reached, there should be an in-depth, conscientious analysis of the benefits this agreement offers our country." Answering a question about the trade balance and its possible behavior over the next five years, Serra Puche says: "It is difficult to give specific figures." He illustrates this issue by stating: "During the past few months, exports of manufactured goods have increased by 20 percent, according to the latest figures. Imports are growing at a rate of 5 percent. There is a clear trend toward more exports and less imports." He continues: "We have surpassed our foreign investment goals for the next six years; so foreign investment, as you can see, has also improved significantly, and we hope that NAFTA will bring even greater progress." Serra Puche addresses several other questions on a wide variety of aspects related to NAFTA, from broom manufacturing to technological transfers. He reminds the viewers that the whole process will allow all sectors to adapt gradually to the new conditions.

Zabludovsky asks Serra Puche for any closing remarks he would like to make. Serra Puche tells viewers that "NAFTA should be viewed as a challenge and an opportunity." "It is a challenge," he explains, "because we will have to produce better quality. It is an opportunity, because NAFTA will provide us with the tools and special benefits to become more competitive and to produce this better quality." Serra Puche concludes by stating that "NAFTA will help us grow faster, create more jobs, and enjoy well-being."

Clinton Thanks Trinidadian Prime Minister for Support

FL2411151193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1455 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 24, CANA—United States President Bill Clinton has written Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning thanking him for his support on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

"Your expressions of support, both individual and issued collectively through the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Rio Group, the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and the meeting of the Central American presidents have helped me convey to the peoples of the United States the commitment of Latin American and Caribbean nations to opening their markets so that free trade may benefit all," said Clinton in his letter released here by the Government Information Division.

"I am proud to have your support in this historic endeavor and I look forward to working with you to make free trade throughout this hemisphere a reality," it added.

The United States House of Representatives on November 17 passed the implementing legislation for NAFTA, which links the economies of United States, Mexico and Canada in a free trade pact.

Salinas on Channeling Private Resources to Research

PA2611040493 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 25 Nov 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari awarded a medal and a diploma to Emilio Rosenblut, the National Civil Engineers Award-winner for 1992, at Los Pinos today. Rosenblut underscored the need for Mexican civil engineers to start their own research so they can stop being plain importers of technology.

[Begin Rosenblut recording] It will take a long time for us to compete advantageously with those who have a head start and human and physical resources incomparably superior to ours. [end recording]

President Salinas stated that, in relative terms, the Mexican Government spends more than the governments of industrialized countries to support scientific and technological research.

[Begin Salinas recording] Our biggest weakness is the channeling of resources from the private sector to scientific and technological research. However, the private sector will now have to channel it or they will be at a disadvantage in competition with other nations. So, we welcome the opening because it will be the great incentive to channel those resources to scientific and technological research. [end recoding]

The president gave out the 1993 Education Awards to Messrs. Oscar Espinoza Villarreal, Nacional Financiera general director; Arturo Fernandez, the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico director; and Victor Manuel Alcerca Sanchez, the Mexican Petroleum Institute general director.

Portion of Foreign Debt To Go Toward Training

PA2511045793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2000 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The National Finance Bank, Inc. (Nafinsa) has reported that 30 percent of the $5 billion authorized for Mexico's foreign debt will be channeled through the development banking system.

Following the inauguration of the 15th International Training Congress, Nafinsa Director Oscar Espinoza Villareal explained that 1 billion new pesos will be earmarked for businessmen interested in setting up work training institutions. Espinoza said that given the nation's new economic circumstances, the way to engage in developing the banking system is to "secure the necessary support to enable companies to become competitive on an international level and for productivity not to be dissociated from training."

He indicated that the cost of training is no longer considered a benefit, but, rather, it is now considered part of the investment needed for banking purposes. As a result, companies can now apply for mid-term or long-term financing to cover these needs. Espinoza pointed out that financing will pay not only for classes and schools, but also for research to improve production quality in companies that are trying to make a name for themselves in an open market.

Javier Soto, president of the Mexican Association for Personnel Training, said that once Mexico overcomes the challenge of personnel training, it will cease to be an assembly-plant country with an economy subordinate to "the control of foreign companies." Soto added that in light of the new world order and the consolidation of NAFTA, Mexico cannot continue working by way of isolated efforts, which only cause a waste of time and resources.

Fidel Velasquez Sanchez, leader of the Confederation of Mexican Workers, indicated that the training must attempt to achieve better living standards for workers, to motivate labor, and to increase productivity.

Luis German Carcoba Garcia, president of the Business Coordinating Council, stated that the training of workers requires a change in culture, because the old thinking of "we have always done it this way" needs to be changed. Carcoba asserted that higher productivity requires technological changes and training, which involves changes ranging from education to behavior, "because companies will have to comply with the market's new demands in order to survive."

Belize

Mexico Signs Health Memorandum of Understanding

FL2511220393 Bridgetown CANA in English 2035 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Belize City, Nov 25, CANA—Belize and Mexico this week signed a memorandum of understanding on health. The memorandum relates to medical emergencies and high-complexity illnesses.

The memorandum was signed at the start of a meeting of health officials from Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize. The memorandum states that the general hospital in Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico will be made available to Belizeans who need emergency medical care.

Under the agreement, the health care for medical emegencies and high complexity pathologies to persons referred by the Belize Ministry of Health will be delivered according to the physical capacity of the general hospital.

Belizean patients, the memorandum stated, "will be charged according to their socioeconomic capacity" and will be responsible for costs and expenses incurred for lodging and boarding while being treated in Chetumal. Persons unable to pay for the medical attention would still have access to the treatment and the Mexican Governmnt would take on full responsibility for the payment of the treatment.

The Belizean and Mexican health officials agreed that if a Belizean patient cannot be attended at Chetumal's general hospital, he will be referred to other health facilities in the state of Quintana Roo or other hospitals in Mexico.

Speaking at the start of the meeting, Belize's prime minister, Manuel Esquivel, said his government's health policy recognises health as a basic human right and a fundamental part of the development process.

"The policy accepts that it is government's responsibility to ensure that every Belizean has access to the best level of health care available, appropriate for his or her health needs, regardless of ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status. and political or geographic distinctions," Esquivel said.

Costa Rica

PLN Candidate on Health, Security

PA2611032293 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Nov 93

[From the "Radio Reloj Newscast"]

[Text] Rodrigo Oreamuno, National Liberation Party [PLN] candidate for first vice president, has said the PLN platform meets the Costa Rican people's many needs. He also said there is much to be done socially because the current administration has completely overlooked the basic needs of the Costa Rican people, who are in complete chaos regarding health and security.

Oreamuno says the health sector is very much neglected and there is uncertainty and confusion because of the many diseases that abound everywhere, while the authorities have not found a way to check the existing epidemics and contagious diseases. He also said that the people's security situation is bad. People are unprotected and defenseless from increasing crime. The only protection the people have is that promised in the government's much touted publicity campaigns.

El Salvador

Retired General Denies Death Squad Links

PA2411022993 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Nov 93

[From the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[Text] On Saturday, retired General Juan Orlando Zepeda characterized accusations made against him by former 1st Infantry Brigade soldier Jose Vielman Joya Martinez as false. The soldier went to Mexico Friday after claiming that he has received death threats.

Joya Martinez accused General Zepeda of being one of the main promoters of the death squads during the war. Zepeda has responded that there is no basis for the accusations and explained that he never knew the former soldier. He recalled, however, that Joya Martinez is facing murder and other very serious charges and affirmed that the soldier's accusations are speculative.

[Begin Zepeda recording] I have never met him. He has had criminal behavior problems. He is being indicted on murder charges. I do not know how that trial is going. I think his charges against me are completely false. I do not know when he was in the 1st Brigade. I completed my duty as commander of that brigade in May 1989. I repeat: I never met him. I think this is one way that many people have of appearing like victims. They do it by accusing others. I think we have to be very careful. I have not heard all of his accusations because I have been out of the country. I do not think there is any firm basis for his accusations. I do know that he has been accused of murder. [end recording]

The former general said the former soldier made the charges within the framework of a political struggle and some sectors give a lot of importance to how discredited a person may be. For that reason, the general attributed the accusations to a psychological and ideological war against most former commanders of the Armed Forces.

[Begin Zepeda recording] Let us say this is: More than anything else, a political struggle during which people are discredited has been the norm. This has been a psychological war, an ideological war that envisages spreading

these kinds of lies and hoaxes, as we say, to try to discredit the enemy. Right now I am not in office. When one retires from a deputy ministry post, one has no influence. One must leave [words indistinct] so he can fulfill his functions.

I have no function in the Defense Ministry or the staff. If the ministry or the fatherland need us, however, we are prepared to respond to any call. [end recording]

The retired general made this statement in the framework of a seminar promoted by the Center of Democratic Studies entitled The New Military Leadership in the Face of the New Demands for Peace and Democracy. The event was attended by junior and high-ranking Armed Forces officers. The seminar is being held at a San Salvador hotel.

FMLN Urges Cristiani To Investigate Death Squads

PA2411131393 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Report by Jose Luis Solorzano; from the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Today, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] urged President Alfredo Cristiani to commit himself to an investigation of death squads in the country. FMLN Spokesman Juan Ramon Medrano has questioned the credibility of the investigations by the UN Observers for El Salvador's Commission To Investigate Criminal Actions in the case of the murder of former FMLN Commander Heleno Castro.

[Begin Medrano reporting] We think that the most important act that can be taken to clear up this situation is for President Cristiani to commit himself to implementing, right after the investigations are concluded, the necessary administrative measures to remove from all of the institutions all of those involved in this type of activity; this includes members of the intelligence corps of whom certain individuals are trying to get into the National Civilian Police [PNC] as well as individuals who have connections with political institutions or the private enterprise sector.

The issue is Cristiani must commit himself to dismantling the death squads and the intelligence bodies that could be serving as footing for armed rightist groups. We do not want one more solution or a legalist solution; we want a strong solution from the chief of state. We want Cristiani to commit himself to dismantling the squads, as he did when the agreements were signed. This is the issue. [end recording]

The FMLN leader criticized what PNC Director Jose Maria Monterrey said today regarding the arrest of a woman involved in the death of the former commander.

[Begin Medrano recording] If this were the case, if matters were so simple, witnesses would have come forth, even if the assassin had escaped, and the lady would have admitted that she was his companion. What this lady has said, however, is that her vehicle was stolen, and this has nothing to do with the accident. There are two different versions. What Monterrey is reporting is the easy one: Somebody became an assassin over a car accident. What the lady is reporting is more involved; she is talking about a crime, because her vehicle was stolen to commit murder.

As long as we are not informed about who is the culprit—and it is not demonstrated that that person is not a member of the rightist groups—we cannot accept any hypothesis, because we view them all as speculations. [end recording]

Medrano insisted that the government and international organizations investigating Commander Carmelo's murder must execute an in-depth investigation.

[Begin Medrano recording] [Words indistinct] politically manipulated are saying that we are accepting this unanimously. The commission is not unanimous; this is being debated. In the hypothetical case that Carmelo's murder was a common crime, this does not mean that the cases of [names indistinct] and many other cases are not political crimes. One hypothesis does not lessen serious events. I believe that all of these cases must be investigated, that of Carmelo, of [name indistinct], of Gabriel, of the comrades of Soyapango, and all the other crimes against the FMLN. [end recording]

The FMLN spokesman rejected President Alfredo Cristiani's recent statement that the Heleno Castro case is closed.

Editorial Views UN Official Visit, Death Squads

PA2311133893 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 19 Nov 93 p 15

[Editorial: "Marrack Goulding's Visit"]

[Text] Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general, arrived in the country on 8 October. The visit was motivated, as on previous occasions when he was under secretary for peace operations, by a grave deterioration in the peace process. On this occasion, the resumption of the death squads' criminal actions (Process 587) has caused the critical situation; therefore, his visit is the best sign of the concern the international community feels about the persistence of the organizations dedicated to the perpetration of political crimes.

During his stay in the country, the official certainly strove to reorient the peace accords within a timetable that is as close as possible to the one originally planned; nevertheless, his mission was essentially aimed at establishing effective mechanisms for the investigation of death squads.

Upon his departure, the specific results achieved during his visit represent a good sign of how these groups have

infiltrated the structures of power in the country. For the first time Goulding has returned to the United Nations without being able to announce effective results from these efforts. When he left on the 15th, Goulding had yet to create a special commission that would investigate the death squads and the recent murders of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] leaders.

Thus the death squads issue remains the central topic of a political debate, and the death squads will remain a threat to effective democracy in El Salvador as long as they are not investigated and dismantled. A sizable part of the difficulty in abolishing these criminal organizations derives from the fact that it involves powerful groups in the country. The military's participation and or connivance in these criminal bands was never fully known. The death squad origins of ARENA, from its inception as the National Broad Front (FAN), are also well-known. The Truth Commission's investigations clearly confirmed this reality; nevertheless, the recent release of more than 12,000 documents, withheld by the CIA and U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense until recently, has revealed to the public the most detailed and overwhelming information on this issue.

What cannot be allowed in this situation is that these groups may disrupt the peace process. Too much progress has been achieved in the peace process to afford the luxury of stopping or, even worse, going backward. That is why the time has come to definitely settle that account with the death squads. The investigation and solution of the most recent assassinations is only the beginning.

ARENA Member Shot Dead in Morazan Department

PA2511024393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0132 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 24 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—A member of the Salvadoran ruling party Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], was assassinated today by unidentified gunmen in a town in eastern Morazan Department.

An ARENA communique reported that the crime took place at 1200, when gunmen entered Melvin Garcia's home, opened fire, and detonated a fragmentation grenade, killing Garcia. The communique says Melvin Garcia was a "compatriot in our nationalist cause" in San Simon, Morazan Department, and the brother of the mayor of Villa El Rosario who is also a member of ARENA.

Melvin Garcia is the fourth ARENA member to be assassinated since 2 November, when a councilman in the town of Chinameca in eastern San Miguel Department was shot dead. [passage omitted]

Disagreements on Labor Amendments Persist

PA2611010193 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Nov 93

[From the "Up-to-Date Newscast"]

[Text] Private enterprise and the labor sector did not succeed in solving their disagreements during an economic and social joint effort forum. Seven days prior to the deadline set by the U.S. Government for the approval of the 49 Labor Code amendments recommended by ILO [International Labor Organization], both sectors have reached a consensus on only 18 amendments. This negatively affects the continuation of the General Preference System, benefits which El Salvador enjoys.

The bottleneck in this debate consists of the number of board of directors members a labor union should have. At present, there are 11 delegates for the section, 11 for the sub-section, and 11 more for the general union. The private enterprise sector desires to change this number, but the labor sector refuses.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified private enterprise spokesman] Imagine what would happen if these 33 representatives in a small enterprise of, say, 50 employees request leave for union purposes. Such a request cannot be refused under any circumstances. Consequently, they can declare a strike without actually declaring it.

[Unidentified labor union spokesman] We have assumed there must be a limit but that this limit should not be the least number but one that has been contemplated in the current Labor Code. [end recording]

It has been reported that President Alfredo Cristiani has requested that the 18 amendments agreed upon at the forum be sent to the Legislative Assembly to gain time for their approval before the deadline set by the U.S. Government ends. The labor sector has turned down this proposal and the business sector has declined to predict what would happen regarding the approval of the 31 remaining proposed amendments.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified labor spokesperson] This is a package of measures that must be approved as such. The approval of some of them would only have no effect because it is always necessary to amend the articles that are related to one another.

[Unidentified private enterprise spokesman] I do not wish to speculate but the U.S. Government could be a little more discreet. [end recording]

Anyway, one week remains before the deadline set by the U.S. Government ends. The continuation of the preferential tariffs on Salvadoran export products depends on this approval. The remaining amendments are expected to be voted on during the forum plenum on Wednesday [24 November] so they can be approved at the Legislative Assembly.

Revolutionary Movement Presents Presidency Candidates

PA2411163993 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0204 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The social democratic National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] officially presented today its candidates for the Presidency and vice presidency for the coming March elections. The MNR presidential candidate is Victor Manuel Valle, a 52-year-old engineer, and the vice presidential candidate is economist Alberto Arenas.

During the political ceremony, the MNR leaders cited the formation of a broad coalition to defeat the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena] during the 20 March elections. The MNR candidate said that: "Our political goal is to form a broad coalition to defeat ARENA and guarantee the peace agreements and the political stability this country needs."

The MNR is a 25-year-old party, founded by leftist sectors and based on a social democratic ideology. The MNR has been a member of the Socialist International since the 1970's, and one of its main leaders was the late Guillermo Ungo.

The other presidential candidates are Armando Calderon Sol, representing ARENA; Ruben Zamora, representing the Democratic Convergence-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [CD-FMLN] coalition; and Fidel Chavez Mena, representing the Christian Democratic Party. The rightist National Conciliation Party has nominated Roberto Escobar; the Unity Movement, Jorge Martinez; the National Solidarity Movement, Manuel Edgardo Rodriguez; and Rhina Escalante, the Authentic Christian Movement leader.

The electoral campaign began on 20 November, and the two leading candidates are ARENA's Calderon Sol and the CD-FMLN coalition's Ruben Zamora. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal estimates that some 2.5 million Salvadorans will be able to vote in the coming elections.

New Mayavision Radio Station Begins Operations

PA2411142993 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Nov 93

[From the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] A new radio station that seeks to have a mass appeal began operating today. It is called Mayavision and is managed by distinguished personalities known to be FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] sympathizers. In this way the dissolved guerrilla group controls a third of the radio stations in the country.

[Begin Mayavision announcer recording] This first broadcast by YSMV, Mayavision. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

[Reporter Hilda Quijano] As with Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti, this new radio station has ties to the FMLN, chiefly on the managerial aspect.

[Begin Mayavision Executive Mauricio Rivera recording] In addition to Radio Farabundo and Radio Venceremos, this would be another recognized news media. In this respect, we want to make it clear that our role as a news medium is not to serve one party but to participate with the other news media as a radio station that serves the truth and impartiality. [end recording]

[Quijano] Mayavision will broadcast on a modulated frequency, and the core of its programming consists of news programs, although it will have slots to allow the people to participate in political and community issues debates.

Roundup of Economic Developments Through 23 Nov

PA2411043193

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Salvadoran economic developments monitored through 23 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

The planning minister announced that the Salvadoran economy will grow 5 percent in 1993 while inflation will reach 12 percent. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1243 GMT 18 Nov)

The International Development Bank has granted El Salvador $1.7 million in technical cooperation to support environmental programs. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2042 GMT 18 Nov 93)

Guatemala

Transportation Companies Shut Down Border With Mexico

PA2411190593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1743 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Central American heavy transportation companies have shut down the border between Mexico and Guatemala to protest alleged "ill-treatment" of truck drivers and for the hike in visa costs to enter Mexican territory. Mexican consular authorities on the border, labor leaders, and transportation companies in turn have initiated a dialogue aimed at finding a solution to the conflict.

Leaders of the Association of International Transportation Workers of Central America have explained to NOTIMEX that seven months ago the visa costs were increased from $2 to $130 daily to enter Mexican territory. In addition, the truck drivers are forced to stay at "third rate" accommodations on the border, instead of being allowed to sleep in the trucks' cabins, representing an additional cost for the drivers.

The border shutdown is adversely affecting trade between Mexico and Central America by more than $500 million. The transportation workers warned that Mexico will be harmed the most by the shutdown, as their trade balance is favored by more than $360 million, and their products will not be allowed to enter Central America.

Official sources on the border with Mexico confirmed that at dawn approximately 300 trailers were stuck at border sites such as El Carmen, Guatemala, and Hidalgo, Mexico. According to the source, the merchandise coming in from Mexico and the United States was not allowed to cross the border. The Transportation Association said that as long as "ill-treatment" persists by the Mexicans toward Guatemalans, they will adopt "serious" protest measures.

Private Sector on Trade Relations With Mexico, NAFTA

PA2511222193 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p 5

[Text]Yesterday, the private sector called on the country's economic authorities to hasten talks with Mexico directed at signing commercial treaties, agreements, and accords.

Luis Reyes Mayen, the president of the Coordinating Committee for Agriculture, Commercial, Financial and Industrial Associations (CACIF), said that the commercial agreements already signed with the neighboring country must be adjusted to the new scenario set by NAFTA as soon as possible.

He pointed out that all of the country's sectors, including the political authorities, must join forces to ensure that all types of relations with this new bloc, particularly commercial relations, unfold positively for the Guatemalan economy. He continued: We believe it appropriate to lobby U.S. and Mexican authorities in an effort to introduce our products into those markets under the best possible conditions.

The CACIF president later said that the fact that U.S. President Bill Clinton will be present at the upcoming annual meeting of the Caribbean Basin Initiative in Miami makes it more important for President Ramiro de Leon Carpio to be present. He pointed out that key figures in the U.S. trade policy decisionmaking process will also be present at the meeting, giving even greater relevance to the need for the president to be there.

The businessman said that it is essential to adopt a more dynamic and aggressive attitude toward our commercial relations. This aggressiveness must also apply to the country's integration efforts with the largest market in the world, as established by NAFTA.

Options To Avoid Negative NAFTA Impact Outlined

PA2511235393 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p 93

[Text] Eduardo Gonzalez, the president of the Association of Non-Traditional Products (Gexpront), reported that Guatemala has three options to avoid a negative impact on its main export products if it is left out of NAFTA.

The establishment of NAFTA is definitely a positive sign based on the direction of the world's economy. However, in Guatemala, it will have a negative impact in activities such as assembly plants and textile industries that will be subject to quotas and taxes that Mexico will not have to meet," Gonzalez explained. [no beginning quotation marks as published]

According to the business leader, Guatemala and Central America will be able to benefit from NAFTA if they effectively negotiate with their Northern neighbors. He identified three mechanisms that will enable the isthmus to participate in what will be the biggest market in the world.

"As a first option, Central America can take advantage of the possibility that the treaty has left open: that any country can adhere to it," he asserted. However, according to a clause, only countries that have political stability and show distinct signs of a sustained growth can adhere to NAFTA.

Another option, he said, could be to reach bilateral agreements with Mexico, the United States, and Canada, taking into account that NAFTA allows its signatories to sign trade agreements with any country or region.

The third option is to support U.S. Florida Senator Samuel Gibbons' bill to allow all the countries in the Caribbean Basin Initiative to have NAFTA benefits for three years. This will allow them to improve their economies and to negotiate their permanent inclusion in the treaty, the Gexpront president indicated.

Honduras

Callejas on U.S. Trip, NAFTA, Elections

PA2411211693 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1654 GMT 24 Nov 93

[News conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with unidentified domestic reporters at the Government Palace in Tegucigalpa; from the "Newspaper of the Air" newscast; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Callejas] ...once NAFTA was approved by the U.S. Legislative Branch and the Mexican Senate. This invitation by President Clinton establishes his desire, as well as the desire of President Salinas, like I said before, to enable Central America, including Belize because of

its association with the Caribbean nations, to begin a period of direct or indirect integration with the United States and Mexico.

The issues we will discuss will be democracy, drug trafficking, human rights, and NAFTA. We will discuss four or five topics and other issues that may come up, such as U.S. economic aid to Central American countries, and these issues may be discussed either directly or multilaterally. I am very satisfied that President Clinton forwarded this invitation because it will allow the United States to once again take the initiative in improving ties with Central America.

[Reporter] Will the Honduran Government present a special request on any particular issue to be discussed with President Clinton?

[Callejas] The Honduran Government will not present any specific requests, but Central America as a region will, as was decided at the Presidential Summit in Guatemala. We support NAFTA, and we ask to be allowed to join NAFTA or for the NAFTA benefits to include the Caribbean Basin, whichever is greater.

In addition to this, logically, we will discuss the political transitions occurring in the Central American region, because a number of nations are going to hold elections, beginning with Honduras this coming Sunday. In other words, when I go to Washington, there will be a president-elect in our country.

[Reporter] Under what conditions will the region's incorporation into NAFTA take place? Will this occur under the current conditions of asymmetry or under new conditions, and how long will it take for the region to join NAFTA?

[Callejas] The process to join NAFTA is a long one. It will take 15 years for Mexico to join NAFTA beginning on 1 January 1994. I presume it will take Central America at least that long or even longer because our economies are very fragile compared to that of the United States. We will have to monitor Mexico's progress.

What we want is that preferential treatment for Central America be maintained, as has been conceived under the Caribbean Basin Initiative. Nevertheless, if NAFTA gives greater benefits to Mexico than the Caribbean Basin Initiative offers the Central American and Caribbean nations, we want the Caribbean Basin Initiative to be expanded while the strategy for joining NAFTA is defined.

[Reporter] If the United States does not offer the aforesaid concessions, what will happen to the economies of Central America?

[Callejas] A serious situation will arise. We would be unable to compete with Mexico, and you can appreciate this in terms of the field of industrial transformation, that is, assembly plants. Currently, Central America is exporting to the United States more than $1 billion annually. In other words, there would be a radical decline in the Central American economy, and I believe that both the United States and Mexico understand this situation.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] agreements between Central American presidents on economic integration to compete with the rest of Latin America?

[Callejas] I do not see why. What we are saying is that we view with optimism this invitation by President Clinton to pave the way for us to sit down and establish an agenda that will prevent Central America from becoming isolated.

[Reporter] But, Mr. President, must Central America act as a bloc, instead of acting nation by nation?

[Callejas] I think so, because after a certain period of time Central America will be fully integrated, and we will have signed sooner or later, some time in the first half of 1994, the agreement between Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico that is now being negotiated. Because of some discord over rules governing and defining product origins, this agreement could not be completed at the Guatemala Presidential Summit. Therefore, there will be a general referential framework for a free trade agreement that is broader than the Central American Free Trade Zone.

[Reporter] Are the three NAFTA signatories willing to include Central America?

[Callejas] I have talked to President Salinas, who has expressed his willingness to support Central America. Also, the invitation by President Clinton is being viewed as a clear political signal in this regard.

[Reporter] Mr. President, you will attend a meeting with governors from southern U.S. states. How long will you remain in the United States?

[(Callejas] I had not planned to go to the United States to attend the Caribbean Basin meeting. I thought that, because a president-elect would already be chosen by then, any decision committing the country on any of these issues must be first discussed with him. But given the nature of President Clinton's invitation and the effects it may have, I have agreed to go. I will leave Tegucigalpa at 0500 on that day, and, if possible, I will be back on Tuesday, 30 November. If this is not possible, I will return on 1 December.

[Reporter] On the political front, a Morazanist group has claimed that great violence is expected from the National Party of Honduras [PNH] during next Sunday's general elections. What can you say about this?

[Callejas] I believe that violence is the most remote thing that can occur in these elections. It is true that there have been some verbal attacks and some isolated incidents, but there is no reason for it. I would say that this has been the cleanest election process in Honduran history, as the OAS has certified, which pleases me. It means my

government has contributed to the honesty of the electoral process, and that the National Electoral Tribunal [TNE] has behaved properly. For this reason we will respect clearly and precisely the will of the electorate on 28 November.

[Reporter] A former president has criticized you by saying you are wasting the state's money by attending inauguration ceremonies.

[Callejas] I am entitled to inaugurate the projects I started. Every president wants to do this. If this helps candidate Jose Oswaldo Ramos Soto, this, too, falls within my purview, because the PNH is currently the ruling party. This is the way it has always been. There have always been inaugurations before elections. I see no reason why actions by one should be different from the actions of others. If I like to fly in a helicopter and use it as a working tool, this also falls within my purview. If someone does not like a helicopter and does not fly in one, that is up to him. It is a matter of personal choice.

[Reporter] The former president said he did not do this when he was in office.

[Callejas] I recall inaugurations in Santa Barbara Department or announcements made there. The news media were there, and, in turn, this is a matter that can be investigated. There also was a massive use of television. We have paid for this, too. This is not something we have avoided. We paid the publicity costs for the 1989 government period. Every president is entitled to do this. Why should one, as a president or citizen, not report to the people and inaugurate projects undertaken by his government? It seems to me a president has this right, and it must be welcomed. A president elected by a party is doing nothing wrong in talking about his government's achievements during the inauguration of projects he has started. I feel this is very logical. This is something we learned from previous governments. They had broad publicity campaigns, and we are merely imitating them.

[Reporter] Will you forbid the use of state vehicles or state gasoline on Election Day?

[Callejas] Quite the opposite, just as the TNE has requested. It is legal to transfer state vehicles to the TNE as of 22 November.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Callejas] According to the law, all state vehicles are at the TNE's disposal.

[Reporter] There has been a great uproar about remarks made in the United States by a certain Mr. Juan Ramon Matta [a drug trafficker seized in Honduras and currently imprisoned in the United States]. What is your reaction to this?

[Callejas] A criminal of this kind does not deserve the coverage he has received. He is serving a life sentence and his remarks reflect his criminal nature.

[Reporter] Why is he making these charges now? He is talking about three generals and Mr. Callejas. Why is doing this now, this week?

[Callejas] I do not know, but the fact is that some media are aware of the type of criminal he is, and yet they still broadcast his remarks and confuse the people. I feel this is totally irresponsible behavior on the part of the news media, such as the one that conducted the interview. I see no reason to give prominence to a man who was sentenced to life in prison for terrible crimes against society.

[Reporter] Some say you are going to give Friday and Monday off to public employees to vote, because many of them must return to their home towns to vote.

[Callejas] I understand that in 1989 the Monday after elections was declared a holiday. We will follow this precedent. I have not received a request by the TNE, but we will heed any recommendation it might make.

[Reporter] Mr. President, there is a discussion currently under way in the TNE about whether citizens should be allowed to vote with only their identification cards, regardless of whether or not they appear on the voting lists. What do you think about this?

[Callejas] Our experience from the 1989 elections indicates that these types of decisions need to be made by consensus. I believe we would be overstepping our bounds if we do not discuss this with the candidates from the various political parties. We did it in 1989. If we fail to do it, we would be violating the law, and if the law is violated, this would adversely affect the election process. I believe, because of our experience in 1989, that these decisions should be made by the candidates and a consensus must be reached.

[Reporter] Do believe the PNH will win?

[Callejas] That is my opinion. I believe the PNH will win the elections.

[Reporter] Do you have the results of the survey conducted by the Armed Forces? It has been said that you have the final results.

[Callejas] I do not know of any survey conducted by the Armed Forces.

[Reporter] As for the voting lists, was the OAS observers' efforts to purge them useless?

[Callejas] No work is perfect. There are margins of error of 1 percent or of 0.5 percent. Actually it is not a problem of great magnitude, and, therefore, it can be handled just as was done in 1989 when a consensus was reached. This is a voluntary action, because the lists are not regulated by law, and this is why consensus agreements much be reached.

[Reporter] An Americas Watch report was disclosed in the country which states that political violence has been

considerably reduced and that more than 150 members of clandestine armed groups have joined the country's political life.

[Callejas] My government put an end to the policy that existed in the 1980's. One of the great achievements of my government has been to respect human rights, even though there may be violations and abuse by certain authorities. Nevertheless, this has not been the rule but the exception. Members of the Armed Forces who have been charged in civilian courts have been tried. The Congress established court jurisdiction when there are cases in which members of the Armed Forces and civilians are involved. We have created a human rights commissioner, who has my complete support and I know he can attest to this. This is a highly positive step. Also, the ad hoc commission gave us some alternatives which are yielding important results.

Very often these reports do not highlight positive aspects, such as the fact that for five months there has not been a habeas corpus. I believe this is important for our country. The media, however, fail to report on this, and they do not pay much attention to it. When in a country such as ours there is no habeas corpus, it means there is correct and responsible conduct before the law. In this case you will recall there was a general amnesty granted in 1990 and 1991 with the participation of various sectors of society, which allowed those who had left the country for ideological reasons to return to the country. That was the decade of the 1980's in which Central American violence led to the condemnation of Honduras at the International Court of Justice at The Hague. Today I am pleased to see that in the last OAS meeting, the report issued by the president of the Human Rights Commission congratulated Honduras for overcoming this stage.

[Reporter] The country's negative international has changed.

[Callejas] Honduras is definitely more respectful of human rights.

[Reporter] On Monday, we are going to know who the new Honduran president will be. Do you plan to meet with the new president regardless of who wins?

[Callejas] I will first congratulate him. I hope to call attorney Oswaldo Ramos Soto.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Callejas] We always congratulate the winner of the elections. It is an act of courtesy. I also want to be at the disposal of the president-elect to enable a smooth transfer of power.

[Reporter] Do you believe the next government should return to a price control system to avoid hurting the people?

[Callejas] Absolutely not. A market economy system is prevailing throughout the entire world, not only in Honduras. A return to the practices of the past would be a serious mistake for Honduran society.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] for the new president?

[Callejas] Tonight we are going to inaugurate the Museum of the Republic. There you will be able to see antique cars used by former presidents. We may allow the president-elect to ride in one of them, if he so chooses.

President Callejas Interview on Electoral Violence

PA2611035593 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Interview with President Rafael Leonardo Callejas by an unidentified reporter on 22 November; place not given; from the "Morning Paper" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr. President, we are only a few days, six days, away from the elections in the country. Are you worried by the possibility of a violent reaction from a losing sector?

[Callejas] No, I do not think so. I really believe that if there are any clashes, they will be isolated incidents. Generally speaking, the Honduran people will behave peacefully and with the purpose of electing their next president through the ballot boxes.

[Reporter] What instructions have the Army Staff been given to prevent violence?

[Callejas] To guarantee the electoral process as the Constitution orders the Armed Forces of Honduras.

[Reporter] Has the report on the real causes of the helicopter accident already been sent to you?

[Callejas] No. I do not have it with me right now, but I understand that it should already be in my office.

[Reporter] Would you like to urge the Honduran people to assume some attitude during this electoral process?

[Callejas] Yes. The people should come to the voting booths massively, vote for the candidate they like, and understand that governments are temporary and that we must build the best alternatives for the welfare of the Honduran people.

[Reporter] What concerns you most before this electoral process, Sir?

[Callejas] That everyone be ready to visit the polling stations, that they all have their documents, there be no flaws in the electoral process. There are OAS observers; there have been some complaints that must be attended by the National Electoral Tribunal [TNE] to avoid any clashes or confrontations in those places, which—I repeat—will be isolated and very few in number. Normally these take place due to excessive alcohol but, since there is no liquor on these occasions, I would say the process will be very peaceful and very tranquil.

[Reporter] Oswaldo Ramos Soto, presidential candidate for the National Party of Honduras [PNH], has expressed his concern because many nationalists have been excluded from the electoral census.

[Callejas] That was the complaint I heard on the radio this morning. I hope that over the remainder of the week the TNE will correct those problems.

[Reporter] Will you meet with the PNH candidate and some members of the TNE to analyze this situation?

[Callejas] I have no meeting with the TNE scheduled.

[Reporter] What would you say to the nationalists who are listening to you?

[Callejas] To the nationalists I say: be prepared to vote. I will, logically, vote early on 28 November. I expect Ramos Soto to win the elections. [end recording]

Army Commander Comments on Security for Elections

PA2611032993 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Nov 93

[From the "Morning Paper" newscast]

[Text] The Armed Forces will be present to prevent any violent acts that could tarnish the 28 November elections. This was stated by General Luis Alonso Discua, the Army commander in chief, who urged politicians to accept the results the voting may yield because this will be the people's decision.

We spoke to Gen. Luis Alonso Discua Elvir about the elections to be held on 28 November. Discua has a meeting scheduled for 1100 with National Electoral Tribunal President Juan Ramon Martinez.

[Begin recording] [Discua] At 1130 I will hold a meeting with the president of the National Electoral Tribunal to make last minute arrangements if there is anything pending. I hope everything will be in order so that everything comes out very well on election day.

[Unidentified reporter] You said the Army will participate in this electoral process in accordance with what is established in the Constitution.

[Discua] Definitely so. We will fulfill the Constitution and I want the people in general to have full trust in the Armed Forces because we will be ever present so that the civic celebration of 28 November will be, as I said earlier, a civic-political celebration and that all Hondurans may go in tranquility to vote without any problems.

[Reporter] General, is there concern among the Armed Forces for the violence that could result from the electoral process as there will be winners and losers?

[Discua] All political parties must be clearly aware of the fact that there will be a winner and there must be a loser. I have heard all the political leaders at the rallies and, during the last ones, they have raised the consciences of their followers about behaving properly on election day so that everything passes in peace. We have also heard the words of Monsignor Rodriguez, calling for sensibility so that this event is held in peace and tranquility and so that we may proceed with the democracy God has granted us. [end recording]

That was Gen. Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, assuring the Honduran people that the Army will be present in the streets to prevent any violent acts during the elections and, after the elections, among Honduran society.

National Party Candidate Interviewed

PA2511201293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1951 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Report on an interview with Oswaldo Ramos Soto, National Party of Honduras, PNH, presidential candidate, by Salvador Borja in Tegucigalpa; date not given]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Oswaldo Ramos Soto, presidential candidate for the National Party of Honduras [PNH], has pledged to continue the process of economic reform but by focusing on the nation's well-being if he wins the elections.

During a NOTIMEX interview, Ramos Soto explained certain aspects of his government plan, accenting that he will continue the dialogue with international financial organizations based on the procedures established by the present administration. "We will talk with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to find workable formulas to attract foreign resources to strengthen the economy and seek growth and well-being of the Honduran people," he commented.

The progovernment party presidential candidate said that he will continue with the privatizations of state-owned companies and will especially emphasize the private sector's participation in the national economy. "We are going to continue with the privatization initiated by this government (of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas); there are still many entities that the state is unable to administer efficiently," Ramos Soto explained.

"Undoubtedly, the private sector is the one that should run the economy and direct it toward the people's benefit. The state should only maintain certain areas," he added.

As an example, he said that his government would privatize certain services such as electricity generation, in which the state will only act as an intermediary to sell it to the users. He said, however, that the main electric project, the El Cajon Hydroelectric Plant, will remain in the state's hands, "because no one would take over its debt."

Commenting on Central American integration, Ramos Soto said it is a "historic need. A market of 30,000,000 inhabitants is undoubtedly more attractive than a market of 5,000,000 for foreign investment, for strengthening the economy, creating more jobs, generating more riches, and improving Central Americans' standards of living," he said.

During the interview, held at his residence in southeastern Tegucigalpa, the candidate said his government will continue the negotiations for regional free trade agreements. "The (free trade) treaties represent the expressed will of the governments and the peoples. The pacts between the states must be fulfilled strictly," he said, but he recognized that those processes are complicated.

Ramos Soto, a former university rector, former magistrate, and former president of the Supreme Court of Justice, said that if he won the election, scheduled for 28 November, he would support the processes for Central America's complete pacification. "Democracy is the best government system; it is important to contribute, through the means for peaceful solutions established by international laws, to find peace and harmony in Central American society," he concluded.

He stated his support for the dialogue between the highest regional authorities but said he approved of the meetings held by the rest of the sectors, "because I believe that many problems can be solved through concerted efforts and dialogue."

Asked about the possibility of reducing the size of the armies and readjusting their duties, Ramos Soto said any of these would be the result of the dialogue between the chiefs of state and the isthmus military staffs. "To talk about reducing the Armed Forces' size, we must talk with Central America. I think we, the presidents, must talk and that the Armed Forces' commanders, or the defense ministers in certain cases, must also be there," he explained.

He advocated readjusting the Honduran Armed Forces' duties to preserve the environment and ecology, to prevent deforestation, and to care for the wildlife refuges, among other matters such as strengthening the police to preserve property and the lives of the public.

Regarding the drug-trafficking topic and its results of violence and societal degeneration, he said these will be given "a harsh treatment." He said he will strengthen and integrate the Central American and other nations' police corps to jointly confront the scourge "that is striking at the consciences of world society."

Regarding the internal economic field, Ramos Soto said that one of his government's basic goal will be to reduce the budget deficit, which was over 4 percent in 1992 to 2 percent. "For this we have to make programs to preserve the budget discipline; we have to be austere in the next government and prevent contraband and tax evasion, and we must also reduce the government's size and reform the presidential administration [gerencia presidencial]," he said.

He recognized the fact that Honduras continues to be a purely import country and said that his government will strengthen the processes for production and productivity of traditional and nontraditional crops in order to reverse the trade balance deficit.

He said that he will fight government corruption by appointing honest officials who want to join the task, "not to get rich but to serve their fatherland."

We will seek to struggle against unemployment by bringing home appliance assembly plants, as the ones we have are simply rudimentary, to generate a greater added value and more employment but only after improving the work force's aptitude by strengthening technical training, he said. Without education we cannot solve the problems of unemployment and poverty. We have an illiteracy rate of 42 percent, over 1,000,000 Hondurans; schooling barely reaches fourth grade, and we have a high dropout rate. We must struggle against this, he reiterated. "It is undeniable that we can only reduce poverty by creating riches, strengthening the economy, and by granting the people better opportunities for employment," he explained.

Nicaragua

Central Bank President on Impact of U.S. Aid Reduction

PA2411170293 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p 16

[Report by Roberto Larios]

[Excerpt] Jose Evenor Taboada, Nicaraguan Central Bank president, said yesterday that the U.S. decision to cut its aid for next year will seriously impact the government's international reserves and will compel it to make major "adjustments" in the monetary program.

The aid reduction, reported by BARRICADA on 13 November, also means that "the availability of resources to pay the foreign debt will become smaller" and that the government will be forced "to restrict imports further," Taboada said. [passage omitted]

3-80 Northern Front Issues Communique to Jinotega Farmers

PA2511204593 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Report on a communique issued by the 3-80 Northern Front in Jinotega Department on 23 November; read by reporter Luis Manuel Mora Sanchez; from the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast]

[Text] Communique issued by the troops of the 3-80 Northern Front to the Jinotega Department farmers:

We inform all farmers whose farms have been occupied by Sandinist People's Army [EPS] troops that henceforth these are military objectives of the 3-80 Northern Front. Trucks loaded with coffee that come from those farms will be destroyed, because we have the military capability to do so. We hope the farmers are informed about this because we do not want to harm them by this measure. Coffee transportation is not being hampered in those farms where there are no EPS troops, the 3-80 Northern Front states.

Signing the communique are Commanders Gorrion, Byron; Pajarillo; Licenciado; Segovia; Conejo; Bailarin; Rogelio; Romero; and El Gringo. [not further identified]

UNO, FSLN Sign 'First' General Agreements

PA2611015293 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Report by Erica Ramirez; from the "National Newscast"]

[Text] The National Opposition Union, UNO, and the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, signed the first general agreements this afternoon. Those agreements include aspects on the Legislative Branch and defense, among others. In an unexpected action, National Conservative Party, PNC, delegate Julio Icaza Tijerino withdrew from the talks. He reiterated that his party is opposed to constitutional amendments and favors a constituent assembly.

Political representatives signed documents on agreements reached up to 22 November on aspects concerning civil rights, political rights, national economy, defense, and the Legislative Branch. The PNC did not sign the agreements. PNC representative Julio Icaza Tijerino withdrew from the talks this morning, stressing that his party's proposal is a Constituent Assembly.

Talks advanced today on aspects dealing with the Judicial Branch and the authority of the Executive Branch. In that regard, the FSLN is trying to reduce the authority of the Executive Branch now that it is no longer in power. Here is Bayardo Arce Castano, member of the FSLN National Directorate.

[Begin Arce recording] It must be clear that the Executive Branch's authority to issue executive decrees is not extensive nor will it have force of law, particularly on fiscal measures and taxes. We believe the Executive Branch must submit the bills to the National Assembly for approval. [end recording]

The agreements also included the creation of a Planning and Economy Council, with the participation of workers and the private enterprise, and the creation of a Council of Ministers. Here are comments by Jairo Manuel Lopez, representative of the Christian Democratic Union-UNO:

[Begin recording] [Lopez in progress] ...the creation of a new instance that does not legally exist in the country under the Constitution, such as a Council of Ministers, the attributions this Council will have, the qualifications and incompatibilities of the persons appointed members of the cabinet, in other words the ministers of state.

[Reporter] Had you previously discussed this subject with the government? What is your position?

[Lopez] We had discussed some aspects with the government; we had advanced on some points during bilateral talks, which have now been reinforced. If those points are included in the constitutional amendments, they will be upgraded to a constitutional level. [end recording]

Negotiations on the subject of reelections will continue tomorrow. The consensus seems to be that it should not be for a consecutive term, and that the presidential period last five years.

Panama

Narcotics Chief Denies DEA Arrests Without Consultations

PA2411152193 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p 4A

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] Ramiro Jarvis, chief of the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) Narcotics Division, emphatically denied yesterday that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has made arrests in Panama without consulting local authorities.

Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino met with U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton last week after groups of local attorneys claimed that DEA agents had made arrests as Panamanian officials and participated in operations in automobiles with diplomatic license plates.

Jarvis explained, however, that "the DEA in Panama, in its direct coordination and cooperation with the PTJ, has not made any arrests, much less participated in joint operations with our institution."

In a PTJ communique, Jarvis added that in the last four years "our relationship with the DEA has fallen within the borders of professional respect."

Communique Denies Arrests

PA2411171193 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p C-5

[Communique issued by Inspector Ramiro G. Jarvis I, chief of the PTJ's Narcotics Division; place and date not given]

[Text] We hereby want to express our concern over a series of reports that have been published recently in the various media that refer to DEA officials' participation in police operations in our country, specifically in the cases of arrests and drug confiscations.

As chief of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] Narcotics Division and as its main representative in the implementation of narcotics policies, which the PTJ Directorate has correctly established and which guide our actions, we cannot accept any of these reports as true.

The DEA in Panama, in its coordination and direct cooperation with the PTJ, has not made any arrests, let alone intervened in joint operations with our institution. The DEA's participation has been limited to the transmission of information and analyses of incidents or actions that can lead to the continuation of the investigations linked to the terrible drug scourge.

We are aware of the DEA's predominant international role and leadership and its contribution to the development of the narcotics struggle in Panama. Its role has been fundamental for our country in obtaining excellent results in this matter. We are Panamanians, however, and we have alway- respected our nationality and status as a sovereign and independent state, of which we are proud. That is why it would be intolerable and unacceptable for us to allow foreign police officers of any nationality to take over our duties, even for the most praiseworthy or altruistic reasons.

During the last four years, our relationship with the DEA has developed within the bounds of respect, professionalism, and reciprocity. Our institution, especially the Narcotics Division, has fought during this time to achieve higher technical levels and a greater professional training, allowing us to create an institution with an identity of its own by our own means at the service of the most pressing problems that adversely affect our country: drug abuse and drug trafficking. This is our priority before we can focus our attention on international cooperation.

You can be sure that during the remainder of our term in charge of this division, we will maintain as we have done up until now our firm position against drug-trafficking activities and its promoters. This is no reason, however, to allow any action that may violate the principles of sovereignty and independence as stipulated in our Constitution.

[Signed] Inspector Ramiro G. Jarvis I.

Narcotics Division Chief

Argentina

Camilion Against Military Intervention in Haiti

PY2411225093 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 19 Nov 93 p 8

[Article by Gabriel Pasquini]

[Text] The United States has consulted Argentina over its willingness to participate in a military intervention force in Haiti should the diplomatic sanctions fail. Defense Minister Oscar Camilion, on behalf of the Argentine Government, turned down this possibility, although he had not explicitly consulted the Foreign Ministry on the subject.

The scene took place in Washington. U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin and U.S. Armed Forces Commander General John Shalikashvili spoke on one side of the table, and on the other side was Camilion, who was accompanied by his cabinet chief Ricardo Lagorio; his spokesman Augusto Rodriguez Larreta; the military attache in the United States, Division General Alberto Maffei; and Ambassador Raul Granillo Ocampo.

Probably as part of the new style of the Clinton administration, Aspin and the other U.S. representatives received their Argentine guests warmly and without formalities, and suggested that the meeting have an open agenda. This allowed them to freely discuss every subject that interested the two parties.

In addition to negotiations over the radars for the Skyhawk aircraft, Haiti was the main issue. The United States has become directly involved in solving the political crisis stemming from the ousting of constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and therefore compelled approval by the UN Security Council of economic sanctions and, later on, a naval blockade.

Despite the defense minister's opposition, Argentina decided to participate in the blockade with the corvette "Granville" at the request of the U.S. Government. The Defense Ministry feared that Argentina's participation might force it into greater participation if the United States decided to launch direct military intervention to force the Haitian armed and police forces to accept the return of Aristide to power.

In fact, Aspin asked Camilion about Argentina's willingness to participate in a military operation against Haiti. He did not have direct instructions for a response, but only repeated a position demonstrated during public and private meetings, during seminars and official ceremonies, shared only in form by the Foreign Ministry, which has always shown a different leaning.

In Camilion's opinion Argentina must not participate in any international armed operation, be this ordered by the United Nations or not, not only due to financial and logistics problems but also to conceptual differences. The example he always mentions is Somalia: According to the minister, the intention to create a national state from abroad is a highly difficult task when it does not conceal an "imperial method."

He is thus also against military intervention in Haiti, and took advantage of his visit to the United States to meet with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and then issue a communique, in which they both voiced their support for the diplomatic sanctions against Haiti and their opposition to a military solution to the crisis.

During the interview with the Argentine delegation, Aspin asserted that his government also believes the sanctions will yield results but, during a further meeting, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Alexander Watson again asked Camilion about Argentine willingness to participate in a military intervention in Haiti. The minister repeated his answer. Aspin did not refrain from commenting on the "difficulties" that UN representative Dante Caputo had, obviously, found in his attempt to bring about the transition which, in theory, the Haitian military were supposed to respect.

The Foreign Ministry has always been more open to U.S. requests and, although Guido Di Tella tried to formally appear to agree with his defense counterpart during public conferences, facts revealed the differences of opinion when he decided to send Argentine ships to participate in the naval blockade. Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella has explained that, in his opinion, the only Argentine official objection to participation in the missions ordered by the UN Security Council are from the technical feasibility viewpoint. But Di Tella cannot protest: His representative, Ambassador Granillo Ocampo, endorsed with his presence Camilion's answer.

Comments on Pilcomayo Situation

PY2511214093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2302 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Nov (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion denied today that there was a conflict between Argentine and Paraguayan authorities over the diversion of the Pilcomayo River course, stating that Argentina "is not willing to hold one cubic milimeter of water which does not belong to it."

Upon stating that the situation on the border between the two countries "has shown some improvement" compared to what had happened last year, Camilion said that construction continues on the Argentine side "to prevent any type of conflict" with the Paraguayan Government. [passage omitted]

In a news conference held this afternoon at the Defense Ministry, Camilion admitted that there were "difficulties" with the course of the river, but added that Argentina "has demonstrated its sincere willingness to overcome them." [passage omitted]

Concerning the possible creation of a common army among member countries of Mercosur [Common Market

of the South], Camilion said that such an issue has not yet been established, although he admitted that "meetings were held at the level of the chiefs of staff of the armies, and this exchange of ideas will continue."

The minister said that the American continent as a whole "is an area of peace," and added that now "there are talks about integration, and not conflicts." As example of this he cited the Chilean case, stating that bilateral trade with that country "has tripled, and at this moment a great gas pipeline is being prepared to take Argentine gas to the area of Santiago."

Economy Minister Objects to Pay Raise for Pensioners

PY2511184393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1454 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Nov (NA)—This morning Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo stated that the Senate's approval of a pay raise for pensioners was "irresponsible."

Cavallo voiced his hopes that this pay raise will not be approved by the Chamber of Deputies. "We must eradicate demagoguery and tell the people the truth about what can or cannot be done," the economy minister stated.

The Senate took barely 20 minutes to approve Senator Antonio Cafiero's bill proposing a special bonus retroactive to 1 November for minimum pensions.

Deputies Take Oath of Office; Pierri Reelected President

PY2511173693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1540 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Nov (NA)—Justicialist Party Deputy Alberto Pierri was reelected president of the Argentine Chamber of Deputies today during a preparatory session during which 127 new deputies took their oath of office.

Great Front Deputy Carlos Alvarez abstained from voting for Pierri, which prompted an angry reaction from the gallery, whose occupants booed and whistled at the deputy for quite some time.

The deputies took their oath of office amid a festive atmosphere and a certain amount of disorder due to the large number of guests. More than 500 people attended the ceremony.

UIA President Rejects Creation of 'Monopolistic Patents'

PY2611003493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1907 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Nov (NA)—Jorge Blanco Villegas, chairman of the Argentine Industrial Union [UIA], today rejected the possibility of establishing a law on patents that would provide for monopolistic property rights to scientific innovations, similar to the case in the United States.

In the regular meeting organized by the Senate Industry Committee, the UIA chairman said that "we do not believe that the right to property must be absolute," and noted the "high cost" paid by countries which have no flexible laws.

Blanco Villegas stressed the fact that the U.S. law has led "to an increase in the price of medicines, which has to be paid by the public." The UIA has thus adopted a position similar to that adopted by the CILFA [Argentine Industrial Center of Pharmaceutical Laboratories], the organization grouping the national medicine laboratories.

Moreover, Radical Civic Union [UCR] Senator Ricardo Lafferriere ruled out the possibility that the Senate could discuss the draft law on patents before the end of the year. "There are still four meetings to be held with different organizations, and besides, the constitutional amendment issue is blocking the development of many projects," the UCR senator from La Rioja said.

Some sources feel that the draft law on patents will be discussed only in January or February 1994, despite the urgency declared by the national government at the behest of the United States.

Brazil

Franco Welcomes PRC Leader Jiang Zemin

PY2411222893 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Nov 93 p 29

[Text] Brasilia—Brazilian President Itamar Franco and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin discussed international policy. In his speech welcoming Zemin, Itamar Franco said that China and Brazil need to work together for the reorganization of the United Nations. According to the president, the task of the two countries is to provide a new "legal basis" for the UN Security Council.

"Brazil and China agree in the assessment that an agenda for development is a component inseparable from an agenda for peace. Our task must also be that of providing a new legal basis for the international order. That challenge stresses the urgent need to think about the reorganization of the United Nations, and especially of its Security Council. That is the new challenge—of vital importance—which invites us to coordinate efforts between our countries," Franco said.

Jiang Zemin told President Franco that Brazil and China must develop a broad strategic partnership, greater than the simple exchange of products or the purchase and sale of equipment and services.

"The economic power and the technological development level of the two countries are not only similar, but

they also stand out because of their peculiarities, because they can be exchanged or because they can complement each other," Zemin said in his thank you speech.

Today Jiang Zemin will participate in a special session of Congress in his honor, and will then leave for Sao Paulo. Jiang Zemin will remain in Brazil until 28 November.

Jiang Visits Itaipu Dam

PY2411225393 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 24 Nov 93

[By Lucia Norte from Curitiba]

[Text] PRC President Jiang Zemin today visited the Itaipu binational enterprise, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. He said that his country will build a similar dam on the Yellow River.

Jiang Zemin and his retinue were welcomed at the international airport in Foz de Iguacu by Parana Governor Roberto Requiao. They first visited the Iguacu falls and then went on to Itaipu. They visited all the plant's installations, justifying Chinese interest in seeing the project by explaining that China is developing a project to build a dam on the Yellow River that has even greater power than Itaipu, but with the same generation capacity.

After the visit to the installations accompanied by Francisco Gomide, director general of Itaipu on the Brazilian side, and Miguel Jimenez, director general of the Paraguayan side of Itaipu, the Chinese presidential delegation went to the visitors' reception center, where the Chinese president stamped his name on the records.

Chinese Foreign Minister Comments

PY2411202593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1921 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Brasilia, 24 Nov (EFE)—Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Quichen stated today in Brasilia that the Cuban Government is not a threat to the United States and Latin America.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin spoke on 22 November in Havana with his Cuban colleague Fidel Castro about the economic difficulties that are being experienced by the Caribbean island, and about the interest that exists in improving relations with its neighboring Latin American countries, said Qian, who participated in the meeting.

According to the foreign minister, the strengthening of relations and economic exchange between Cuba and Latin America is considered by China to be a very important step. "As the Soviet Union no longer exists, Latin America and the United States must be aware that Cuba is not a threat to them," Qian said. The foreign minister is accompanying Jiang, who is in Brazil on an official six-day visit that will conclude on 28 November.

Jiang and his entourage made a technical stopover in Havana on 22 November. They were coming from the U.S. city of Seattle, where Jiang participated in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference.

The Chinese foreign minister indicated that his country does not approve of the economic sanctions that have been imposed on Cuba by the United States, and that this position is shared by the majority of the members of the UN General Assembly, which was recently expressed in a resolution. "We want to develop normal relations with Cuba, relations of peaceful coexistence, of nonaggression, and of respect for integrity," Qian said, adding that China cannot increase its sugar purchases from Cuba because what the Caribbean island can offer is not enough.

Finance Minister Not To Run for Office

PY2411130693 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco said Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso will not be a candidate in the 1994 elections; therefore, he will not be affected by the ministerial reshuffle.

President Franco said he received a letter from Minister Cardoso indicating that he will not run for office in the elections. Franco also reaffirmed that the ministerial reshuffle will be gradual, starting in December and ending by 6 January 1994. Franco added that he will replace all the ministers who will be candidates in the upcoming elections.

Constitutional Revision Regulations Approved

PY2511111493 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Nov 93 Section 1 p 9

[Excerpt] Congress on 17 November voted on the internal rules and regulations for the constitutional revision. The parties opposing the revision (PDT [Democratic Labor Party], PT [Workers Party], PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party], PC do B [Communist Party of Brazil], and PSTU [expansion unknown] Workers Party) did not manage to block the vote. With the approval of the internal rules and regulations, a two-week period to present constitutional amendments begins.

Even after yesterday's decision, the constitutional text will not be voted on until January. In addition to the two-week period, there is another 10-day period for receiving the rapporteur's opinions. A 10-day congressional recess also has been scheduled for the end of the year.

The constitutional text will not be voted on until January because the congressional leadership prefers to wait for the Budget CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] results before initiating the revision. The leadership wants to prevent congressmen suspected of involvement in corruption from voting.

Yesterday, Congress also rejected a proposal for a bicameral vote system. With this decision, the constitutional

revision will be unicameral. According to the unicameral system, senators and deputies vote together and their votes carry the same weight. Using the bicameral system, the revision's decision would follow the regular legislative procedure. In a nutshell, deputies and senators would vote separately and the Senate would have the power to revise the Chamber of Deputies' decisions. Following this procedure, the revision's process would be slower.

The parties favoring the revision had problems achieving the quorum required to defeat the bicameral system. The session was scheduled for 1500, but the quorum was not achieved until late in the afternoon. The presence of at least 293 congressmen was required in the plenary and 307 were present. After voting on the bicameral system, there was a bloc vote on special features and amendments. [passage omitted]

Deputy Delgado Elected PMDB Bloc Leader

PY2511135393 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Deputy Tarcisio Delgado is the new leader of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] bloc in the Chamber of Deputies. His election was not opposed due to the decision by Deputy Odacir Klein, who preferred to remain vice president of the Budget Congressional Investigating Committee.

Delgado is replacing Deputy Genebaldo Correa, who resigned after being accused of involvement in the budget corruption scheme.

Institutional Crisis Discussed at Naval Symposium

PY2511020693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Nov 93 p A3

[Article by Helio Contreiras]

[Text] During a symposium held behind closed doors at the Naval War College [EGN], Admiral Gelcias Castro yesterday rejected any solution to the crisis generated by the investigations of the budget CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] that might force an institutional disruption. This statement was made in response to questions posed by officers on active duty who voiced their concern over the aggravation of the political crisis.

At the EGN symposium entitled "The Navy, Brazilian Society, and National Defense," the admiral said that "the political leadership must find institutional solutions, regardless of the effects of the crisis"—even if the budget CPI ends up affecting areas of the Executive and Judicial Branches. "The Armed Forces are not tired of being the guarantors of power," he said.

Admiral Castro, who recently retired from active service in the Navy because of personal disagreements with Minister Ivan Serpa, received the support of a political scientist, Jose Murilo de Carvalho, professor at Rio de Janeiro Federal University. According to Carvalho "the civilian power is in a position to find solutions to the crisis."

Another admiral who participated in the symposium at the EGN, Hernani Fortuna, said that "the crisis in the country is serious, and could assume even more worrisome dimensions, to the extent that the investigations by the budget CPI could reveal more corruption, and not only in the Legislative Branch, but in the Executive and Judicial Branches as well." Adm. Fortuna pointed out the "frailty of the institutional structure as the most serious trait of the Brazilian crisis in the 1990's."

He argued that the "threat of ungovernability stemming from the loss of credibility by the Legislative Branch, and from the Executive Branch's lack of action, could lead the country to a crisis of unpredictable consequences." But he made one reservation: "I believe that regardless of the outcome of the situation, a typical military intervention would be very difficult, although we cannot rule out the possibility of a constitutional disruption without the installation of a military regime, as happened in 1964."

The EGN lecturer admitted that "the military has failed in some sectors, and abuses were committed against those who assumed positions contrary to the military regime, but corruption did not reach the levels existing today, and this can be compared through open investigations, as they should always be."

Chile

Aylwin Cancels Trip to Group of 15 Summit

PY2511230993 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] The president of the Republic, Patricio Aylwin, will not travel to India on 13 December, as he had originally planned. This was reported by the Foreign Ministry. The chief executive will be unable to attend the New Delhi summit scheduled by the Group of 15 due to the elections that will be held on 11 December in Chile.

The Group of 15 includes Chile, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

The goals of the Group of 15 are to promote and enhance South-South cooperation and, within the new international scenario and agenda, to encourage North-South development, integration, and cooperation.

Silva Cimma on Foreign Policies, U.S. Ties

PY2411215293 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 Nov 93 pp C1, C2

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma yesterday strongly endorsed the way in which foreign relations have been pursued. He noted that the defeat of

Chilean candidate Rafael Moreno in the elections for the post of FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization] director general may not be described as a diplomatic failure.

Silva Cimma also cleared doubts about how much the government had had to invest in the two-year campaign to have Moreno chosen. The foreign minister estimated that $600,000, and not $6 or 10 million as had been speculated, were spent on Moreno's campaign.

The foreign minister also discussed current relations with the United States, pointing out that there are points on which the government is working to resolve difficulties, such as the so-called airlines conflict. Concerning this point he predicted that rather than probable reprisals by Chile diplomatic negotiations may be conducted, which could end up successfully. [passage omitted]

Relations With the United States

Silva Cimma also denied that relations with the United States are going through difficult times. These bilateral ties were subjected to a thorough evaluation during the last cabinet meeting in La Moneda Palace. After this cabinet meeting [Interior] Minister Correa noted that the balance was actually not satisfactory, and described as serious and delicate the situation created by a U.S. decision to reduce the number of LAN [Chilean National Airline] and Ladeco [Chilean Airlines] weekly flights to that country.

Correa also indicated that NAFTA's approval by the U.S. Congress on 17 November will obviously benefit the whole of Latin America, and especially Chile, but the problems with the airlines have nothing to do with this issue.

Foxley Comments on Copper Export Reduction

PY2411140293 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Nov 93 p A19

[Article by Liliana Astudillo Cadiz]

[Text] Rancagua—Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley said on 11 November that the significant reduction in Copper Corporation [Codelco] profits in the first 10 months of this year is being compensated for with savings made by the government in the good years. He said this was made to help the people feel this major international crisis as little as possible in their daily lives. He added: "This year we will lose $900 million of income from exports, which is the equivalent of more than 2 percent of the country's total production."

Foxley came to this city to be with Sixth Region Mayor Juan Nunez Valenzuela, who made a public account of his administration. Foxley then made an evaluation of the country's economic situation. He reiterated that Codelco's privatization was not in President Patricio Aylwin's plans and is not in presidential candidate Eduardo Frei's program; therefore, this is an issue that should not be debated.

Regarding the workers' concern about the possibility of losing their jobs, Foxley said copper workers should be more positive and understand that Codelco is overcoming the most adverse periods with greater work effort and productivity in order to reduce costs and compensate for some of the losses.

Foreign Minister Asks Court To Hear Soria Case

PY2611003093 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpt] There are new developments concerning the murder of Spanish diplomat Carmelo Soria. Here we have a live relay from the courthouse where reporter Mario Aguilera has the following report. Good afternoon, Mario.

[Begin recording] [Aguilera] Good afternoon, Eduardo. Just after midday Foreign Minister Silva Cimma went to the Supreme Court, where he was received by Acting Chief Justice Servando Jordan. The foreign minister officially requested him for a Supreme Court justice to be commissioned to investigate the murder of former Spanish diplomat Carmelo Soria. Let us listen to the remarks made by Foreign Minister Silva Cimma.

[Silva Cimma] I went to the Supreme Court this afternoon to officially request the appointment of a special judge, who will come under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court itself, to hear Carmelo Soria's case.

[Aguilera] What is the reason behind this request?

[Silva Cimma] The reason behind this request is that it is my considered opinion that relations between Spain and Chile have been considerably affected on account of this case. Now this opinion is shared by the Spanish Government itself, which has made a request concerning this case, and put it in writing, as well as the European Parliament. Hence we cannot turn a deaf ear to such an important matter, and we are going to put it in motion it this very afternoon. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ambassador: Case Affects Relations

PY2511135193 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] The Spanish Government believes that the Carmelo Soria case, a Spanish citizen murdered in Chile in 1976, will have a negative impact on the relationship between the two countries. This was stated by Spanish Ambassador to Santiago Pedro Bermejo, who met for more than 40 minutes with Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma.

After the meeting, the ambassador said they had not discussed the Soria case and there still has not been an official response to the Spanish Government's request

for the appointment of a trial judge to clarify this crime. Bermejo said Spain believes that a Supreme Court judge is a magistrate of the highest level and, therefore, the best guarantee for a trial in this Spanish citizen's slaying.

In response to an answer, the ambassador pointed out that the failure to clarify Carmelo Soria's murder affects Chilean-Spanish bilateral relations.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Do you think the Soria case is affecting Chilean-Spanish bilateral relations?

[Bermejo] As I stated before, this is the legal grounds on which we base our request for the appointment of a trial judge; it is the legal reason that justifies the appointment of a court judge. Yes, I do believe this case does, due to Carmelo Soria's links in Spain, due to the impact press reports on the case are having in Spain, and because the Spanish Deputies Congress has voiced interest in the case and approved a proposal asking the Spanish Government to do everything possible to clarify this crime. In this sense I believe that the development of this case might affect the relationship between Chile and Spain, and this is the legal grounds used to ask this ministry that it, in turn, request the appointment of a special judge. [end recording]

Ambassador Bermejo said he has no complaints regarding the way the Chilean Government is handling the case of Carmelo Soria's murder. He also refused to comment on the deadline for appointing the trial judge.

Pinochet Dismisses 'Problems' Over Promotions Delay

PY2511204993 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Nov 93 p A19

["Exclusive" interview with General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, Army commander in chief, by EL MERCURIO correspondent Lucia d'Albuquerque at the residence of the Chilean ambassador to Brazil in Brasilia on 11 November]

[Excerpts] [D'Albuquerque] When will the names of those who have been promoted in the Army be disclosed?

[Pinochet] Look, if I were to change command, everything that has so far been done for the elections would go down the drain. We are therefore not going to effect any changes or order transfers for the time being. One cannot move the high command around every day.

I believe there will not be any problems because President Patricio Aylwin is a serious-minded person who acts conscientiously and tries to be fair. Things will thus remain unchanged until after the elections.

[D'Albuquerque] It was leaked in Santiago that the Canessa Law will be made to apply to Army Deputy Commander General Jorge Lucar Figueroa's case, so that he would be able to remain in his post. What is your opinion of that measure?

[Pinochet] I take it that it may be so, but it is incumbent upon the president to decide that. Whenever there is a problem that concerns the president, he solves it. Now, when the matter in question comes under my jurisdiction, then I resolve it decisively. And you may rest assured that I will try to enforce it. [passage omitted]

[D'Albuquerque] What were the conclusions reached at the 20th Conference of the Americas' Armies concerning the armies' reorganization?

[Pinochet] Well, General Sullivan (Gordon Russell Sullivan, U.S. Army Chief of Staff) happened to totally agree with me, in the sense that armies must be made up of a highly professional regular contingents. I have noticed that armies are undergoing changes, but without reducing their personnel because wars break out without advance warning.

[D'Albuquerque] How was the Army's modernization process carried out in Chile?

[Pinochet] We are currently streamlining the Chilean Army. Those who do not understand this sometimes complain: My goodness but you are way behind! But we are not. We are taking our time to do everything; we do things step by step. The studies that we have done seek to regulate some parts of the institution. The infantry nowadays need armored vehicles. In keeping with its strategic concept, the infantry require a high penetration speed. You may very well understand that an infantry on foot is a 14th century concept.

[D'Albuquerque] The issue of subversion was also raised at the conference. How does the Chilean Army see this problem?

[Pinochet] Oddly enough, some of those who believe they have achieved the pacification of their country are taken back by the fact that it is not quite so. This is a concern for us all, because bank holdups then ensue to get hold of cash, and with it everything you already know about. [passage omitted]

Aylwin Decides General Lucar To Remain in Post

PY2611003993 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Following a cabinet meeting at La Moneda, Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa stated that on 22 November General Augusto Pinochet conveyed a proposal to Acting Defense Minister Enrique Krauss, both orally and through an official letter, whereby he suggested that General [Jorge] Ballerino be nominated as Army inspector general, and General (Quaas) as chief of staff.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Is it true that the government prefers that General [Jorge] Lucar not retire from the Army?

[Correa] The president indicated that he would prefer Gen. Lucar to remain in his post as deputy commander, and made use of his presidential prerogative to extend the period in which he could remain in the Army holding this post. This, however, does not mean that the government sought at any moment to cause harm to the professional career of so brilliant an officer as Gen. Ballerino. [end recording]

It must be underlined, though, that a part of the Army expected Gen. Ballerino to be appointed as the Army's deputy commander.

In the course of an informal talk with the press, Gen. Pinochet confirmed that President Aylwin had decided that Gen. Lucar would remain in his post as Army deputy commander.

With regard to reports about Gen. Ballerino's resignation, Gen. Pinochet stated that he had not received any letters from Gen. Ballerino giving notice of his retirement. He explained that Gen. Ballerino is making a good recovery from surgery he had undergone in the United States, and that he would continue to hold the office of Army inspector general until next year, when he will have completed the prescribed 38 years of service in the Army.

State Defense Council Appeals Ruling on Letelier

PY2411212893 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Excerpt] With regard to the case involving the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, the State Defense Council this morning appealed the ruling by Justice Adolfo Banados on General Manuel Contreras, and requested that the former and Brigadier Pedro Espinoza be given 10-20 years' imprisonment. [passage omitted]

'Main Leaders' of Extremist Group Arrested

PY2611023293 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Trial Judge Humberto Espejo this morning inspected the impressive arsenal seized by Investigative Police personnel during an operation in which they also arrested three of the topmost leaders of the extremist group Raul Pellegrin.

After having visited one of the houses raided by the police on the Corcega alleyway in the La Cisterna neighborhood, Judge Espejo went to the Investigative Police headquarters this morning, where he examined the characteristics of the powerful arsenal seized from the subversives. Six Slough rockets, six M-16 rifles, pistols, guns, a submachine gun, and a considerable amount of devices to manufacture explosives were among the weapons seized.

[Begin Espejo recording] We cannot know or guess what they were planning to do, but there is no doubt whatsoever that they were going to perpetrate terrorist attacks. These are organizations in which the top leader plans out what they are going to do; they may at most write down a piece of information, an address, but they never have any plans in writing. [end recording]

Concerning the 10 detainees, it has been confirmed that the main leaders of the extremist group Raul Pellegrin have been run in by the police. They are Esteban Burgos Fonseca, its military chief; Alejandro Placencia Urrutia, logistics chief; and Ariel Saez Von Marttens, political chief. The other people taken into custody include six women and Luis Lopez Sandoval, who was in charge of keeping an eye on the arsenal discovered at the safe house located at Corcega Street.

Colombia

Security Department: Rebels Receiving Weapons Via U.S.

PA2511003493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2314 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 24 Nov (EFE)—The Administrative Department of Security (DAS) of Colombia today revealed new routes have been found running through the United States to supply weapons and explosives from the Middle East and the former Soviet Union to Colombian and Peruvian rebel groups.

According to an investigation conducted by the International Police (Interpol) and the DAS between July 1992 and July 1993, the majority of weapons that entered Colombia illegally during this period were intended for groups that comprise the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNG). The investigation also makes reference to channels of weapons traffic from the United States to the Peruvian "Shining Path" and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) groups.

The arsenals, originally shipped from desert regions of the Middle East and from various parts of the former Soviet Union, entered the United States by way of the Pacific and Atlantic seaboards. Once in U.S. territory, the weapons were shipped from San Francisco to Peru or from the states of Arkansas and Tennessee to Venezuela and the Brazilian region of Mato Grosso, from which the weapons were taken to the Colombian Amazon jungle.

The report disclosed by the Colombian secret police says that, in the case of Colombia, a high percentage of weapons and explosives were shipped from the Yucatan Peninsula on Mexico's Caribbean coast. Once unloaded in Colombian territory, local bands of smugglers transported the weapons to unpopulated areas in Meta and

Guaviare Departments to deliver them to the subversives. The DAS also made reference to an aerial route used to send weapons to Colombia from Arizona and another land route from Peru across the common border that is more than 1,600 km long.

Individuals Assassinate PL Congressional Candidate

PA2411202693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1907 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Santa Fe de Bogota, 24 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Emilio Guevara, candidate to the Colombian Congress for the progovernment Liberal Party (PL), was assassinated this Wednesday by unidentified individuals in northern Cesar Department, military sources have reported.

The attack, which also injured Councilman Carlos Urquijo, occurred on a downtown street in the conflict-ridden town of Aguachica, some 800 km from Santa Fe de Bogota, the military report has stated. Guevara, 45, was entering one of his vehicles when three men who fled the scene shot him, according to eyewitnesses.

Though no organization has claimed responsibility for the crime, authorities did not rule out the possibility that this may be a new action by guerrillas, who, a month ago, warned that they would sabotage next year's elections. [passage omitted]

Police Chief Says Pablo Escobar Still in Country

PA2611042593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Report by Alvaro Ayala; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Government security organizations and Pablo Escobar both agree that the Medellin Cartel chief has not left Colombia since 1984. Pablo Escobar sent a handwritten letter to the Brazilian investigators who were in Colombia last week and denied that he was ever in a Rio de Janeiro bathing resort or much less paid $10 million extortion by a group of Brazilian policemen who had allegedly arrested him.

[Begin recording] [National Police Commander Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla] The person you are referring to has never abandoned the national territory.

[Ayala] General, what can you tell people after they have been told that the Search Bloc is looking for Pablo Escobar and today, he signs and sends a new letter from [word indistinct]?

[Gomez Padilla] We are searching for this person and will continue to do so. The search for this person is intense. [end recording]

Since they are confident that the Medellin Cartel chief will be arrested or that he will surrender to authorities, the Search Bloc has been transferred to Cali. The Search Bloc's new commander is Colonel Alonso Arango Salazar, who was mentioned by [Cali Cartel member] Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela as the officer who changed several internal Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate documents related to former Attorney General Guillermo Villa Alzategui.

Body of Escobar Partner Found in La Catedral Prison

PA2511225993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Nov 93

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] The horrors of La Catedral Prison continue to be unveiled. Now a mutilated and burned body turned up on the soccer field. We confirmed the body found is that of one of the Galeano brothers, who was reportedly murdered by Pablo Escobar's henchmen.

The "National Newscast" has determined that the body authorities found buried in the soccer field of La Catedral Prison was that of Fernando Galeano, a partner of Pablo Escobar. The searches of La Catedral Prison continue today. The body of Kiko Moncada, another former partner of the Medellin Cartel leader, is yet to be found.

Ten people were tortured and murdered on Pablo Escobar's orders at the La Catedral Prison days before his escape. This was part of an internal war within the Medellin Cartel between the group of the Moncada Galeano brothers and that of Escobar. The bodies of persons murdered by Escobar's henchmen have been found inside car trunks, beheaded, burned, and with signs of torture. Mario Galeano, William Moncada, and today Fernando Galeano in La Catedral Prison turned up in the aforementioned condition.

Commission Proposes Dialogue To Resolve Uraba Violence

PA2511184893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Report by Diego Alonso Sanchez; from the "National Newscast"]

[Text] The Uraba Peace Commission has proposed a regional dialogue as a means to resolve a violent situation that has left 80 dead in Uraba this past month. Regional dialogue is a risky alternative, considering that the Public Order Law discourages it and supports the enforcement of more drastic measures in conflict areas. We talked to commission members. Here is Diego Alonso Sanchez with a report from Medellin:

[Sanchez] The commission went to Uraba convinced that a political dialogue is the only viable solution to the crisis in the banana area.

[Begin recording] [Commission member Benjamin Higuita] I hope we will find points of agreement today

that will allow a truce between the conflicting groups. I remain a strong supporter of regional dialogue and hope that the government will accept, within the public order proposal, that those regional dialogues can be held.

[Senator Alvaro Uribe Velez] We must insist, through our political activities, on exercising tolerance. We must insist on showing the people of Uraba that violence does not fulfill political, ideological, or community interests. I hope that Colombia will find a way to resume a dialogue soon. National and regional dialogues can be combined perfectly. [end recording]

[Sanchez] Congressmen and authorities agreed that what truly matters here is to peacefully end the current wave of violence in Uraba.

Liberals Work on Public Order Law; Senators Comments

PA2511141993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Report by Raul Gutierrez; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] President Gaviria pulled the legs of the liberal wing in Congress this morning. He ordered them to throw out the Public Order Law, and just today three articles were approved.

Between sips of coffee and orange juice, Liberals, headed by President Gaviria and party President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, decided that the statute would not be one of public order or security instead of reconciliation, will not be permanent but temporary, for two years, and will be a government control of public order information broadcast by television and radio. The Liberals also decided that governors who negotiate with guerrillas without presidential authorization will be dismissed, and they approved approximately 600 billion pesos for social investments in areas of conflict.

[Begin recording] [Gutierrez] Will there be any control?

[Senator Luis Giraldo] The control will be exerted through a congressional follow-up commission and by members of both chambers with representation from all political sectors in that commission. [end recording]

The reconciliation statute will leave handling the Judicial Police to the prosecutor general. The president will handle granting amnesty or pardons negotiated during this administration.

[Begin Senator Mario Uribe recording] A twofold law will be enacted to serve the state to face increasing criminal outbreaks and at the same time to fully guarantee respect of human and individual rights. [end recording]

Modifications to the draft bill mean that the guerrillas obtained: 1. the reconciliation statue will be temporary not permanent; 2. there will be a difference established between the military forces and the Judicial Police; and 3. crimes by certain militia will be considered political crimes.

Following the presidential order to the Liberals, this is how the voting went on the 13 new articles of the controversial Public Order Law. During breakfast, Liberals at Narino House agreed to act on the Public Order or Reconciliation Law; by lunchtime the voting in the first commissions began with the opposition of the Conservatives and the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance.

[Begin Senator Hernan Echeverria recording] To me, it seems illogical that decrees that were issued to deal with a situation that was mainly temporary in nature should be the same ones to be enacted for permanent application, as if the situation for which they were enacted was to remain indefinitely. [end recording]

For the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance, Congress is acting as an umbilical cord for the government.

[Begin Senator Vera Grabe recording] From the very beginning we said that the Public Order Law had to be for reconciliation and peace, that we needed to legislate public order but not under government pressure, not with a bound Congress, as is now the case. Problems are being dealt with during palace breakfasts, and then they impose these things on us. [end recording]

Several articles under the new Reconciliation Law or Public Order Law have been approved in the first Senate and chamber commissions, among which is the article that completely unlinks military forces from the Judicial Police.

Paraguay

President Says He Gives Orders, Not U.S. Ambassador

PY2411165593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p 8

[Excerpts] The U.S. ambassador warned that "it would be a tragedy if dishonest people replace those honest people who are combating drugs" in Paraguay. The ambassador referred to the retirement of Division General Mario Rodolfo Escobar Anzoategui, who until recently was heading SENAD [National Antinarcotics Secretariat]. In this respect the ambassador said: "The U.S. Embassy is concerned about this, and we are going to consult Washington about their views on it. But first I have to talk with the president." The ambassador made this statement at the end of the Police School commencement ceremony for high-ranking National Police officers that was held in Luque and headed by President Wasmosy. [passage omitted]

Asked at the end of the ceremony about Ambassador Glassman's statement, President Wasmosy said: "I am

the one who orders the appointments and not Glassman." He added: "It is Juan Carlos Wasmosy who gives the orders in Paraguay." The president immediately withdrew from the site after stepping into his car and slamming the door forcefully.

Foreign Minister: Comments 'Regrettable'

PY2411172293 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Diogenes Martinez said the statement made by Ambassador Glassman is regrettable and inappropriate.

[Begin recording] [Alexis Casco Pane] We talked with the foreign minister about the statement made by U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman regarding recent appointments and replacements, and about his meeting with President Juan Carlos Wasmosy. The foreign minister said the U.S. ambassador's words are regrettable.

[Martinez] As foreign minister I assert that this statement is inappropriate and regrettable.

[First unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Second unidentified reporter] Will you summon the ambassador, Sir?

[Martinez] I have not made any decisions yet. First I must speak with the president. This is a very important issue and I cannot make a unilateral decision in this regard. But I can unilaterally assert that the statement is regrettable and inappropriate. [end recording]

U.S. Envoy Needs To 'Explain'

PY2411190293 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p 8

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Diogenes Martinez hinted today that the government would ask U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman for an explanation of his comments that criminals are reportedly being protected in high government circles. [passage omitted]

Asked if Ambassador Glassman's comments meant a deterioration in Paraguayan-U.S. relations, Martinez said: "No. No isolated event can represent a rupture or a deterioration in relations." He added: "For that to happen several events would have to occur, which in their dimensions and essence would indicate an intention to deteriorate the relationship between two nations."

Regarding Glassman's suggestions for appointing officers in the military structure, Martinez said: "I do not see it that way. What I saw was his interpretation in general terms of the current circumstances, and of the government and Armed Forces structure." Martinez did not want to comment on the U.S. ambassador's possible interference in the internal affairs of our country, saying: "We will talk later about what kind of interpretation I could make."

Ambassador 'Responsible' To Name Dishonest Officials

PY2411191193 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p 6

[Text] Defense Vice Minister General Marcial David Samaniego, retired, former head of the National Antinarcotics Secretariat (Senad), has said that if U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman really knows some dishonest people who work in the fight against drugs, his responsibility is to provide those names.

Glassman has made it understood that dishonest people might be replacing honest ones within Senad. He added that in our country the mafia apparently protects criminal activity and money laundering. "If Glassman has information that one or several officers are involved in dishonest activities, he must provide those names privately to the president of the Republic so that he may adopt the appropriate measures," Gen. Samaniego said.

He added that "this type of work demands maximum confidence. Thus if they (the North Americans) have some data on the matter, they must provide it to the president of the Republic." He went on to say that "this task is too delicate and complicated. The presence of honest people is therefore essential. It is not just a case of naming or dismissing anyone."

Wasmosy Says Promotions Based on Seniority, Merit

PY2411130393 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 21 Nov 93 p 6

[Article by Ciudad del Este correspondent Juan Carlos Salinas]

[Text] Naranjal—On 20 November, President Juan Carlos Wasmosy justified the recent changes in the military leadership by stating that according to military regulations not everyone can be promoted to the rank of general.

He also said the Armed Forces must be reorganized and noted that the number of generals is being reduced in order to reduce the size and rationalize the Armed Forces. According to Wasmosy, all the measures taken have the approval of Armed Forces members. As for General Regis Romero's removal from the Logistics Command, Wasmosy said Romero has completed a phase because he had reached the rank of division general.

The chief of state said: "We must also give others an opportunity," and denied that the decision was made only because it involved General Romero, but noted that the seniority and merits of each one are taken into account.

Regarding the possible promotion by military specialists of the role played by General Lino Oviedo, Wasmosy

wondered where they specialized. He said he is willing to meet with them to prove whether or not they are wrong.

Promotion Board Confirms Retirements, Promotions

PY2311122593 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 23 Nov 93 pp 2, 3

[Text] After 15 hours of sessions, the Armed Forces Promotion Board, headed by engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy, president of the Republic and Armed Forces commander-in-chief, confirmed all the promotions and retirements of generals announced by NOTICIAS on 20 November.

Twelve generals (five division generals, six brigadier generals, and a quartermaster general) were sent into retirement and six colonels and a ship-of-the-line captain were promoted. This represents a real reduction of five generals.

Among those sent into retirement are Division Generals Regis Anibal Romero, Marino Gonzalez, Galo Escobar, Mario Escobar Anzoategui, and Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena.

Among those brigadier generals who will no longer be on active duty are Jose Jimenez Caceres, Marcial Samaniego Jr., and Francisco Talavera. Quartermaster General Enrique Landaida also will go into retirement.

Infantry Colonel Pedro Hugo Canete Peralta (one of Army Commander-in-Chief General Lino Oviedo's closest aides), Cavalry Colonel Jose Atanasio Ovando Villalba, and Engineering Corps Colonel Victor Adolfo Segovia Rios, (Army Command chief of staff), among others, will be promoted to general.

Two rear admirals and five brigadier generals will be promoted to vice admirals and division generals, respectively. They include the three Army corps commanders (1st Army Corps Commander Oscar Rodrigo Diaz Delmas, 2d Army Corps Commander Evelio Fabio Benitez Santacruz, and 3d Army Corps Commander Iran Antonio Centurion Espinola). The new vice admirals will be acting Navy Commander-in-Chief Flavio Alcibiades Abadie Gaona and Andres Ramon Legal Basualdo, the new War College commander.

Promotions Board Retires 51

PY2311130993 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 23 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] A total of 51 colonels from various branches, both line and service officers (active duty and reserve), and seven ship-of-the-line captains were sent into retirement by the Armed Forces Promotions Board, whose discussions were reported after a marathon session that ended at midnight.

The list of colonels sent into retirement is headed by Colonels Guillermo Godoy Galeano, former Antelco [National Telecommunications Administration] executive board chairman and current Armed Forces General Staff 5th Department head, and Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas, former 4th Infantry Division commander. Gonzalez Rojas was removed from his post after he reported on the traffic of stolen vehicles to Bolivia through the Chaco region that involved high-ranking military officers. Gonzalez Rojas has been unassigned for several weeks since he was removed from his last post, namely De la Victoria barracks deputy director.

Jose Luis Alder Ibanez, who was Asuncion mayor after February 1989 and currently is Military Geographic Service director, is included on the list of colonels sent into retirement. Teodoro Gabriaguez Riquelme, who has been serving in the Armed Forces for more than 40 years and was Tren [expansion unknown] Service director until August, is another colonel who will leave the barracks.

Discussions Ended

President Juan Carlos Wasmosy announced that the Promotions Board sessions ended early this morning and will no longer be resumed. All the promotions, from second lieutenant to general, were discussed yesterday.

Colonels and Ship-of-the-line Captains Who Go Into Retirement

Line Officers

1. Guillermo Godoy Galeano
2. Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas
3. Silos Jordan Vergara Gaona
4. Pedro Antonio Acuna Soley
5. Ernesto Ramon Cabrera Llamosas
6. Juan Ubaldo Cabrera Aquino
7. Lucilo Nestor Cardozo Farina
8. Miguel Angelo Morinigo Bosch
9. Jose Luis Alder Ibanez
10. Agustin Olmedo Alvarenga
11. Oscar Eduardo Cantero Rodriguez
12. Arnaldo Colman Diaz
13. Nivaldo Aquilino Fleitas Diaz
14. Euripides Agaton Vaezken Unzain
15. Ramon Felino Esquivel Acosta
16. Arsenio Victoriano Caballero
17. Gildo Anazco Antunez
18. Silvio Hernando Sanchez Ocampos
19. Candido Mereles Elizeche
20. Flaviano Carlos Garcete Colman
21. Ramon Escobar
22. Ildefonso Bordon
23. Jose Efrain Vera Benitez (ship-of-the-line captain)
24. Felix Venancio Carballo A. (ship-of-the-line captain)
25. Antonio Jose Melgarejo Idoyaga

Service Officers

26. Angel Maria Zorrilla (chaplain)
27. Eugenio Antonio Amarilla Miltos
28. Heriberto Zarate Galeano
29. Juan Angel Gonzalez Avila
30. Adolfo Bogado Rodriguez

31. Ignacio Clodomiro Caceres Martinez
32. Herib Ruiz Fernandez
33. Mateo Adolfo Ayala Belotto
34. Miguel Angel Ruiz Enciso
35. Marcos Aurelio Udrizar Arce
36. Domingo Ferilde Gonzalez
37. Miguel A. Marcial Prats Maldonado
38. Jose M. Davalos Flores (ship-of-the-line captain)
39. Roque L. Sarquis (chaplain)
40. Sebastian Ayala Paredes (ship-of-the-line captain)
41. Osvaldo Adrian Cuevas Menchaca
42. Ilsa E. Sarubi de Filippi (ship-of-the-line captain)
43. Arsenio Nazario Davalos Fernandez
44. Pedro Ramon Alsina Castells
45. Godfrey Albert Roman Roman
46. Serafin V. Casildo Soloaga Campos
47. Julio Cesar Nunez Orue
48. Virgilio Usher Taponnier (ship-of-the-line captain)
49. Higinio Emilio Morinigo Ferrari
50. Jose Alberto Garcete Guggiari
51. Onofre Colman Rolon (cavalry line officer)

Reserve Officers

52. Teodoro Gabriaguez Riquelme
53. Juan Fernando Cespedes Russo
54. Modesto Ramon Sanchez Sosa
55. Francisco A. Laconich Gonzalez
56. Carlos Britos
57. Sergio Liborio Gayoso Aquino
58. Carlos Maria Gonzalez Lopez (ship-of-the-line captain)

Wasmosy Thanks Retiring Generals

PY2511222093 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 25 Nov 93 p 6

[Text] Quite unexpectedly, all the generals who will be retired by the end of the year, by virtue of a decision by the Promotions Board, were summoned by President Juan Carlos Wasmosy to attend a meeting at the commander in chief's headquarters yesterday afternoon.

All the generals who were in Asuncion went there. Rumor had it that the reason behind this meeting was the statement made by General Regis Romero, who disagreed with the decision to retire him. Gen. Romero arrived at the meeting escorted by his lawyer, as it was believed he would be taken into custody after the meeting, as happened with General Dionisio Cabello some years ago.

Once the meeting was over the president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces explained that he had summoned the military to thank them for the services they had rendered the nation.

Wasmosy told journalists that "I have called all those officers the Promotions Board has determined should go into retirement, and I have thanked them on behalf of the nation for their years of service and for everything they have done."

Moreover, he explained that he told the generals that those who wish to continue to collaborate with the government as civilians are welcome to do so. "I have talked with each of them, as they each already have prospects," he noted. It was said that Wasmosy had reportedly offered posts to some generals.

According to the executive head of state, the generals who have been notified of their retirement went in through the front door and will leave once again through the front door, as none of them will be retired for failing in their duty or for indiscipline, but rather in order to have a comparable number of generals in the three branches, as that was one of his promises together with that of rationalizing the Army. Wasmosy argued that in order to do that generals' posts had to be eliminated.

"They have left through the front door, and I think that it is the duty of a good citizen to thank them for what they have done. I was unable to do this before because the Promotions Board concluded its deliberations at 0100," he stated. Wasmosy also pointed out that the Promotions Board used to take three days to reach a decision whereas now, under his administration, it had done so in but one day, by working in an orderly fashion.

With regard to the situation of [Military Forces Commander Vice Admiral Eduardo] Gonzalez Petit, who allegedly had the required seniority as vice admiral, Wasmosy said that the five years' seniority mandatory for being able to retire refer to the post an officer holds, and that Vice Adm. Gonzalez Petit had just been appointed commander of military forces. He also made it clear that the repeal of the military law is still pending. Should it be repealed, it might affect the situation of Vice Adm. Gonzalez Petit, in which case his situation would have to be studied.

Deputies President on Meeting With U.S. Ambassador

PY2411171193 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Chamber of Deputies President Francisco Jose de Vargas by reporter Humberto Rubin in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Rubin] What are the concrete issues you talked about with U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman that you did not want to discuss?

[De Vargas] [words indistinct] It is not that I do not want to comment. I am not refusing to comment on what we talked about. What I said was that I will comment on certain issues in the future. We talked about all kinds of issues. [passage omitted]

I believe all issues are important. The only issue which I said I would not make any comments for the time being is the one about the promotions and retirement of some officers. Regarding the retirement of Colonel Catalino Gonzalez Rojas, I would like to say clearly that it was a

gross mistake to retire him. My position on this issue is quite clear. I respect the constitutional rights of the president of the Republic, who is entitled to make decisions as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. And I pray the decisions he makes will help strengthen democracy and not weaken it.

But what I do not like to comment on is the relationship that may exist between the retirement and replacement of some officers and my meeting with Ambassador Glassman. I believe it is a delicate issue; I say this sincerely, not because it is interference as some people would like to make the case of Ambassador Glassman look. The issue of drug trafficking is an issue about which we all are concerned. Just as we supported the requests made by Ambassador Glassman on behalf of his government so AWAC airplanes could come here and try to detect drug trafficking routes, when he makes comments on other issues I accept them because I believe he is just as concerned as I am or you are or Col. Gonzalez Rojas and all listeners are about the increase of drug sales in Paraguay. [passage omitted]

It is not that I do not want to talk about the details of my conversation with Ambassador Glassman on this particular issue. I simple do not want to add fuel to the fire. I do not want the confrontation between President Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Ambassador Glassman, two men I respect, to get worse unnecessarily because I believe that basically the two men have the same objectives. We all want to struggle against drug trafficking. [passage omitted]

[Rubin] Then, do you justify Glassman's annoyance?

[De Vargas] I would not say his annoyance or not; I would say his concern.

[Rubin] Do you justify, then, Glassman's comments when he said, for example, that he believes it is a tragedy that honest military men were retired, and he talks about [former National Antinarcotics Secretariat Executive Secretary] Escobar Anzoategui. It is believed he talked about him among other things. Would you say Glassman is right?

[De Vargas] Let me tell you that I believe it was a gross mistake to retire some officers, among them Col. Gonzalez Rojas, and I say this not because he is there with you now. I said that before. I would not say it is a tragedy; it is a gross mistake to retire some officers who have more democratic spirit and more will to struggle against corruption than other officers. But for me it is even more important who will replace those who are retired. For example, I would not be too concerned if Col. Gonzalez Rojas, after being retired from a position in the Armed Forces, is replaced by someone else with his civility and honesty. This is why I believe it is much more important who replaces who; this is the issue here, Rubin. This is where we should center our efforts.

[Rubin] Did Glassman tell you who or is it known, as there are so many changes, who will replace Escobar Anzoategui?

[De Vargas] No, no, we did not discuss that issue in particular.

[Rubin] Greetings to you.

[De Vargas] Same to you; thank you.

Changes Cause 'Concern'

PY2411133293 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 22 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] House Defense Committee Chairman Sergio Lopez stated that there is concern for the latest measures taken by the president of the Republic concerning the Armed Forces because they undoubtedly prove that there are people, like General Lino Oviedo, who have great influence with [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy.

Lopez stressed that it is obvious that there are groups within the Armed Forces that are marooned in the past and that so far have gained the upper hand. He pointed out that the most striking thing that occurred in the last few days is the removal of General Regis Romero soon after he had been appointed a member of the Promotions Board and some days prior to the latter's starting deliberations about promotions and retirements. "There is no doubt whatsoever that Wasmosy continues to be in a quandary about both his remarks and his actions," he said.

Lopez further stated: "I know for a fact that Regis Romero used to argue with Oviedo because he did not agree with the Armed Forces Command. Let us call a spade a spade, Lino Oviedo is pulling the strings and Wasmosy obeys his orders." Lopez said they thought the presence of Regis Romero and Marino Gonzalez would counterbalance the Army commander's power. "Oviedo's position finally prevailed and Wasmosy had to replace the men who do not agree with Oviedo's management of the Armed Forces," he said. Sergio Lopez added that he learned that after the lawmakers' visit to the quartermaster facility, Gen. Romero was reprimanded by Wasmosy.

Senator Diego Abente said the modifications the Executive Branch wants to introduce in the Armed Forces through a decree are "cosmetic changes." He opposed this position on the grounds that it is untimely because it has been raised at a time when Congress will begin drawing up a new military law. "To some extent it means a modification of the military structure, but it entails no in-depth change, and this means a very superficial, cosmetic change," the National Encounter lawmaker said.

Abente noted that the alleged plans to reform the Armed Forces are inopportune because "there is now a bill in

Congress for the Armed Forces' reorganization, and Commander-in-Chief Juan Carlos Wasmosy is aware of it."

Prudent Attitude

Abente said Wasmosy should have adopted a much more prudent attitude, waiting to see the final structure of the Armed Forces—after approval of the bill that is under study—because the partial changes introduced by the commander in chief will be short-lived, "because if they are against the terms of the future military law, they will be invalidated." As for the intention behind President Wasmosy's decision to postpone restructuring the Armed Forces, he said the objective might be to create "de facto situations before enforcement of the new law." Abente finally said it will be a useless step that will not prosper because it will not be in line with the law.

Colorado Deputy Juan Ernesto Villamayor said the current situation within the Armed Forces should in no way be considered a source of tension that can affect the country's political life. He said this is normal at the time the military performance evaluation panel meets.

He justified the changes introduced in the past few days, noting that no one can be regularly promoted without being sent into retirement. "I don't know whether there is tension within the Armed Forces. I did not sound out the Armed Forces to see whether there is tension. I believe it is going through a situation that normally occurs when the performance evaluation panel meets and orders—this cannot be otherwise—promotions that are always enjoyed and hailed by Armed Forces' members, and retirements that are the other side of the matter," he said.

Asked whether the changes will promote the role of General Lino Oviedo, Villamayor replied: "I don't know. This observation has been made by those who watch the Armed Forces' internal situation practically everyday. I am not making that study and therefore I would rather not give an opinion."

President Says Incident 'Closed'

PY2511153093 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 25 Nov 93 pp 2, 3

[Text] Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy indicated that the incident between him and U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman on 23 November is closed by telling journalists on 24 November that everything has been said and he has nothing more to add on the subject.

The journalists asked Wasmosy about the subject after the graduation ceremony for Army officers from the various institutes of the Military Training Institutes Command held at Army headquarters in Mariano Roque Alonso.

The president answered that he respected the U.S. diplomat's opinion and was willing to receive suggestions from any ambassador or Paraguayan citizen. He made it clear, however, that he will "never accept being told what to do," meaning Glassman's objections to the retirement of military officers in charge of the National Antinarcotics Secretariat, Senad.

On 23 November, Glassman objected to Wasmosy's decision to replace military officers holding key Senad positions. The ambassador described them as honest people and warned that it would be a pity if they were replaced by dishonest people. These remarks prompted a disagreement because the president said he was in charge: "In Paraguay, Juan Carlos Wasmosy gives the orders."

Asked whether this disagreement would have an effect on relations between Paraguay and the United States, Wasmosy answered that he did not believe that would be the case since "anyone can slip up." When journalists persisted on the subject, asking whether what happened would jeopardize diplomatic relations, the president simply answered: "You should ask him about it," meaning the U.S. ambassador.

Wasmosy's foreign minister, Diogenes Martinez, labeled Glassman's attitude "unwarranted and unfortunate," but refused to say what diplomatic actions would be undertaken in the case.

Senate President: Attitude 'Not Prudent'

PY2511154893 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 25 Nov 93 pp 2, 3

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Senate President Evelio Fernandez Arevalos stated that as far as he can see there was no disagreement between President Juan Carlos Wasmosy and U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman.

"Each of them expressed an opinion," Fernandez said. "One of them addressed a domestic matter and the other defended his constitutional rights and powers," Fernandez stated, adding that the president of the nation was right when he made it clear that he is legally empowered to make decisions.

Fernandez added: "I believe that Ambassador Jon Glassman's attitude of passing political judgment on a decision made by our president was not prudent because there are appropriate channels for this sort of thing, and the diplomats normally use those channels." [passage omitted]

Laino: Comments Deserve Consideration

PY2511144093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Nov 93 p 7

[Text] PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] leader Domingo Laino stated that U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman's comments should be taken into account due to the

seriousness of their contents in the sense that in Paraguay drug traffickers and money laundering are protected by government officials. He added that he will raise this worrisome subject for discussion at the multiparty dialogue.

Laino said: "I am really worried about U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman's comments that drug trafficking and money laundering are protected by government officials. This issue should draw the attention of all good Paraguayans, especially those who promote and participate in the multi-party dialogue that in good faith and with great patriotism seeks stability so the nation will be governable."

He added that currently and according to the comments made by the ambassador, who must have sound information at hand, "we allegedly are implementing a policy that seeks the best for the nation, however, we allegedly are seeking stability and to make the country governable so that individuals occupying high posts within the government can protect individuals or undesirable people who violate the law and only harm the country's image, as well as causing society incalculable damage."

In Laino's opinion, it would be good for the multi-party dialogue to take note of the situation and include in its agenda this specific subject because "a society where criminals are protected by the government will not be able to live in democracy or freedom, and still less achieve happiness for the Paraguayan people." Lastly, Laino recalled that Paraguay and the United States signed an agreement to fight drug trafficking and that bilateral relations should be assessed within the framework of that agreement because this is where written and signed agreements between the two countries come from. He ended by stating: "This is why Ambassador Glassman's comments are even more distressing."

Political Leaders Review Wasmosy's First 100 Days

PY2311230893

[Editorial Report] Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish on 23 November publishes five unattributed articles on political leaders' reactions to President Juan Carlos Wasmosy's first 100 days in Government Palace.

In a 200-word article on page 6, Colorado Party Deputy Juan Carlos Villamayor asks for "the support of the political class and all citizens to strengthen Juan Carlos Wasmosy's government." Villamayor says that Wasmosy's administration "is quite good" and that we "must strengthen the democratic process." In the same article Senator Sebastian Gonzalez Insfran is quoted as saying that "Wasmosy must reorganize his cabinet" because "some changes are urgently needed."

In a 250-word article on page 7, Senator Carlos Romero Pereira, of the Luis Maria Argana faction, says this 100 days "only served to accumulate frustrations," adding that the government has again approved "a very bad budget" and "is not doing anything about social problems."

In a 150-word article on the same page, National Encounter Alliance Senator Rafael Casabianca says "this government is characterized by its hesitant attitude, because so far it has not solved anything." Casabianca says "the government will not be able to solve the grave social, political, and economic problems" unless Wasmosy makes up his mind to begin governing.

In a 200-word article on page 9 Domingo Laino, leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, says the government's economic policies "are without a compass and without clear objectives." Laino complains that "government programs are not being implemented, particularly those on state reform" and those regarding "the privatization of state companies." Laino, however, expresses satisfaction "for the progress made by the political leadership" in consolidating and shoring up this democratic process.

In a 200-word article on the same page, Congress President Senator Evelio Fernandez Arevalos says he cannot point to "any important fact regarding a structural change in the country," although the political class "is showing maturity and responsibility." Fernandez Arevalos says the president lacks the "political willingness to introduce necessary changes" in the handling of the military issue.

Argentina Disputes Planned Construction on River

PY2311174493 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 23 Nov 93 p 20

[Excerpts] The government, through Foreign Minister Diogenes Martinez, said it will start building urgent correction mechanisms to guarantee the fair and equal distribution of the Pilcomayo River's middle and lower waters. The decision was made after the foreign minister summoned most of the Advisory Council members to his office. Former Foreign Ministers Alberto Nogues and Carlos Augusto Saldivar, Authentic Radical Liberal Party Senator Jose Felix Fernandez Estigarribia, and Febrerista Deputy Euclides Acevedo attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

During a news conference, Minister Martinez disclosed that Public Works and Communications Minister Carlos A. Facetti and national representative [Luis Alberto] Meyer had chosen an alternative the government will implement, after informing the Argentine Foreign Ministry, if the Argentine Government fails to honor the agreements of 14 August and 14 September to gradually block the river.

Martinez asserted: "I believe this reflects facts that at this stage of events in the Pilcomayo problem create an unfortunate situation for Paraguay's legitimate interests." [passage omitted]

Opininn Polls Shows 45 Percent Say Government 'Good'

PY2311163493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] A poll conducted by this daily on the occasion of the first 100 days of President Juan Carlos Wasmosy's administration reveals that 45.1 percent of the people consider his government "good," 7.2 percent consider it "very good," 17.9 percent "bad," 3.6 percent "very bad," and 26.1 percent abstained from giving an opinion. Most people voiced their approval for the national Congress' performance, although a high percentage refused to answer on the subject. The governability pact was another subject about which the people were questioned.

The poll was conducted in Asuncion, Fernando de la Mora, Lambare, San Lorenzo, and Luque. The final report is based on 552 valid answers obtained from 1,500 people. The data was collected by a team of 10 pollers and two supervisors. Fifteen percent of the data was supervised. [sentence as published]

Venezuela

Public School Classes Suspended Due to Violence

PA2611024493 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0210 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Central Information Office announcement read by Deputy Education Minister Felipe Bezara in his office in Caracas on 25 November—recorded]

[Text] The Education Ministry hereby informs the Venezuelan people that the provisional suspension of classes ordered by the Executive Branch is only for preschool, basic, middle, diversified, and professional public schools and will be effective throughout the nation due to the disturbances that occurred this afternoon in several areas of the country.

We call on all sectors to help maintain peace so that the electoral process scheduled for 5 December can be carried out in a peaceful atmosphere that will allow the people to go en masse to the voting centers and strengthen our democratic process. An announcement regarding the resumption of classes will be made in due time.

Velasquez: 'Foreign Policy Is Under My Control'

PA2511233193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1932 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Caracas, 24 Nov (EFE)—Contradicting Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich, Venezuelan President Ramon Jose Velasquez said today in Caracas that relations with Colombia have not deteriorated. Velasquez stressed: "Foreign policy is under my control. I am the director of international policy, and I control relations with Colombia, the United States, and all countries."

Velasquez admitted, however, that conflicts might crop up because Colombia and Venezuela are neighboring countries, but denied that relations have deteriorated.

Velasquez said: "We will never have a conflict with Paraguay," a country with which Venezuela shares no borders, and added: "but with our neighbor we will." The president insisted that international relations will be maintained "with the balance and within the guidelines set by my government."

On Tuesday the Venezuelan foreign minister said that statements by Colombian presidential candidate Antonio Navarro Wolff in Santa Fe de Bogota regarding the situation of Colombian citizens in Venezuela gave rise to a conflict that "is hurting our relations with Colombia."

Ochoa Antich said that the human rights of Colombian citizens are not being violated in Venezuela, and that Colombian prisoners do not receive discriminatory treatment here as Navarro Wolff has charged. Navarro Wolff, a former guerrilla who is the presidential candidate of the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance (AD/M-19), said that he has evidence that Venezuelan border authorities are extorting Colombian citizens who want to obtain a Venezuelan residency permit.

Foreign Minister Rules Out Coup by Armed Forces

PA2611000693 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p 1-14

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich affirmed during a television program "there will be no coup d'etat because the basic majority of the National Armed Forces [FAN] are committed to democracy and understand clearly Venezuela wants a lawful solution to its problems."

In view of the approaching elections, the official indicated "citizens are going to vote to avoid violence." In his opinion, three elements are required to bring the electoral process to a successful conclusion: the impartiality of the government, the impartiality and efficiency of the Supreme Electoral Council, and FAN impartiality, which guarantee stability and the recognition of the winner.

Ochoa Antich admitted the charges by Lieutenant Raul Alvarez Bracamonte "have worried me because it could prompt doubts, on the part of the Radical Cause Party in this case, regarding the FAN impartiality. To be sure, differences of opinions exist within the institution, but the majority of its units have a clear sense of democracy, and that will constitute an element of absolute impartiality."

The philosophy of the military commands, Ochoa Antich explained, is not really to rebel against institutions. On the contrary, FAN has been trained to respect them, which is why the 4 February and 27 November coup attempts failed.

Glancing back at history, the official recalled Democratic Action was in power for three years following the 1945 coup and then spent 10 more years in exile. "This is good advice for the Radical Cause Party that now has major possibilities in these elections. One has to have foresight and patience in handling history."

The foreign minister said the Radical Cause Party "has made a big effort, and one cannot deny that to those young people and to presidential candidate Andres Velasquez, as they have managed to build an organization from scratch, and that is worthy of admiration because it is no easy task."

While again drawing a connection between the incidents of 1945 and the current situation, Ochoa Antich noted "we must have a historical perspective," and hastiness prompted by the desire to reach power "may result in a lack of maturity and, therefore, the loss of opportunities to make a major historic change."

During the program, the foreign minister also stressed the media's role in building the country's image abroad. He felt it could be very harmful to Venezuela to portray a society with greater tensions than really exist. I am not saying there are no major tensions in Venezuela, he cautioned, but reading the printed media and hearing the voice media one notices a tension greater than really exists in society, and I believe we must be concerned about it.

Ecuador Signs Business Visas, Investments Accord

PA2411155793 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 23 Nov 93 p 2-3

[Text] Ecuadoran and Venezuelan Foreign Ministers Diego Paredes Pena, who is visiting Caracas, and Fernando Ochoa Antich have signed an agreement to grant business visas and another agreement to facilitate investments in either country; this is intended to better implement the free trade agreement signed between Ecuador and Venezuela.

According to Foreign Minister Paredes Pena, this will help improve trade, which, despite its reactivation, is still low compared to existing trade with Colombia, which exceeds $200 million. Trade between Venezuela and Ecuador amounts to $60 million, with a balance in favor of Venezuela by 66 percent, equivalent to $40 million. Ecuador exports to Venezuela merchandise worth $20 million.

During a meeting sponsored by the Venezuelan-Ecuadoran Chamber of Commerce and Industries, sea and land transportation problems were studied. Also discussed were problems dealing with a common tariff and problems that businessmen of both countries are facing.

To deal with this last problem, work has been done and an agreement to grant business visas was signed yesterday. These visas will be valid for a three-year period, with a right to stay in the country up to three months, and will only be granted to businessmen w lling to do business in either country and who meet a series of requirements.

Regarding sea transportation, it was reported at this work forum that transport time between the two countries had been reduced from one ship once a month to one ship once every 15 days. Gonzalo Mendoza, president of the Venezuelan-Ecuadoran Chamber of Commerce, believes that this shipping schedule will gradually increase, shortening the time between vessels as trade increases.

Regarding land transportation, it was reported that certain obstacles had been overcome, and for the time being there is only a change in tractor trailers [chuto] without unloading the merchandise from the container or trailer [gandola], as was recently the case. Agreements are being made with land transportation unions in Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela to avoid merchandise delays. "A complete trip should be made between the three countries, with no other delays than those inherent to customs and security."

To conclude, the Ecuadoran foreign minister reminded that his country is presenting a plan of total openness; in other words, there is no type of exception by any sector to receive investments.

Jailed Commander: Defense Minister Lying About Conspiracies

PA2411134393 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 Nov 93, p A-6

[Report by Jesus Eduardo Brando; quotation marks as published]

[Text] Commander Hugo Chavez Frias, in a letter addressed to the media from Yare Jail, has asserted that the defense minister is lying about his activities and statements about conspiracies and alleged links between the recently arrested members of the so-called "Patriotic Society" and the MBR 200 [Bolivarian 200 Revolutionary Movement]. Commander Chavez says that Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon, "in the purest Carlos Andres Perez style," means to apply the axiom that when a lie is repeated 100 times it becomes truth.

The minister has made plans and allotted resources to infiltrate and divide the MBR 200 and persecutes and arrests "Patriotic Society members," says the rebel chief of the 4-F [4 February 1993 military coup attempt].

The following is the complete transcription of his statement: "The defense minister surely believes that he has assimilated and is, besides, applying that old axiom of propaganda and dirty war: 'A lie repeated 100 times becomes truth.' It was a lesson of the purest Perez style based on, according to psychologists, the observation and coexistence with 'the model,' added to the weakness of character and the lack of values in the person who 'learns.'

"In this case neither 'the model' nor 'the copier' could realize, however, that their game of deceit did not fulfill the fascist order. It did not fulfill it simply because it is not the same to 'repeat a lie 100 times' than to 'repeat 100 lies one time.' This latter axiom does not turn any lie into a truth; furthermore, he who applies it becomes a blatant and chronic liar. That is the level Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon has reached in front of his companions, subordinates, and the entire nation. Let us review only one of his '100' (there are many more) lies: "He has said that compatriots Gustavo Lemoine, Nedo Paniz, Carlos Tinoco, and Roberto Rodriguez are 'the connection between the Red Flag and Third Path subversive groups with the MBR 200.' The truth is that these good friends are businessmen of some success and who after the 4-F began to gather, as did many Venezuelans, in groups of support and solidarity for the military and civilians in jail and their relatives. After 27-N [27 November 1992 military coup attempt], their activity increased, now bolstered by their will, which we share, for attaining a close coordination between the different groups of militaries in jail and exile; therefore, they then became enemies of the defense minister and the interests he represents, which have supplied plans and resources to infiltrate, divide, and disintegrate us.

"After having spoken to them on one or two occasions, I believe I am not mistaken in asserting that their political views are not even close to those of the Red Flag and Third Path.

"Nedo Paniz is, besides, an experienced acrobatic parachutist from whom they seized his square multicolor parachute (and included it—tragic-comic note—in the 'war arsenal' announced by Munoz and which was never shown, another of the '100 lies').

"It is possible, Nedo, that a plan could have turned up, after having been 'planted,' amid your papers for a single-person air assault on Miraflores Palace.

"Our friends are, truly, courageous men."

Radical Cause Candidate Outlines Platform

PA2511011593

[Editorial Report] Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish at 2138 GMT on 18 November carries a 78-minute live presidential candidate forum featuring Andres Velasquez, candidate for the Radical Cause Party, with moderator Pedro Penzini Fleuri and domestic reporters in Caracas. The event is the last in a series of four forums hosted by the Pro-Venezuela Association.

The forum begins with an introduction by Pro-Venezuela Chairman Anibal Martinez on Pro-Venezuela's goals and what it hopes to accomplish by holding the forums. Moderator Penzini explains that representatives from different segments of society have been separated into six groups and will pose questions to Velasquez.

The forum gets under way with a question about what Velasquez's government would do to strengthen the country's industries. Velasquez responds by saying the party has two major guidelines: "One is to accomplish a profound cultural transformation, a fundamental element necessary to advance the reconstruction of the country. The other is our proposal for a major revolution in production." Expanding on the latter point, he notes it means "strengthening the oil sector, small and medium-sized industry, and industry in general."

Velasquez says this must be done to generate more jobs. In his opinion, it is vital to establish a strong domestic manufacturing policy to foster the creation of small industries to process the country's natural resources. He says, "It is my opinion that a responsible government must strengthen this sector, and even if it is accused of having a protectionist policy in some areas, it must maintain this policy," because, he notes, "the way the free competition policy was established, this sector, namely, small and medium-sized industry, as well as other industrial sectors of the country's industry, went out into the international market without having the tools required to survive and get stronger."

Velasquez is then asked whether he endorses establishing a procedure to recall a president or lawmaker who is found to be unfit for the job. The presidential candidate begins by noting the state requires profound reforms "that go beyond a recall vote." He adds that the Constitution should be amended "as a major condition to implementing the process of general reforms that the country's public life needs." He endorses the creation of a recall vote in order that the people are not forced to "endure" an unpopular government. He says it should also be possible to recall lawmakers, noting he has asked legal experts to establish a procedure by which the people can do this.

In responding to a question on how he will fight corruption and what laws he will amend to accomplish this goal, the candidate replies he will wage a "merciless fight against corruption." He pledges to advance the war on corruption in all areas of the country, no matter how remote.

Velasquez says: "We plan to fight corruption with a three-prong attack: First, by way of participation, by getting the people's cooperation and participation in this struggle; and second, through prevention, the education plan we are proposing should become the first element to

regain the values that have become distorted in our country." He goes on to say the third approach involves meting out punishment. "In this regard, we want to reform the judicial branch so that no act of corruption goes unpunished." Continuing on this topic, he proposes naming prosecutors who will work, together with the Judicial Technical Police unit in charge of corruption cases, in a specialized office that will function nationwide.

The next questioner reminds Velasquez his platform states that hikes in oil prices must be accompanied by compensatory or preferential measures to help low-income people cope with the increases. He then asks Velasquez whether allowing gasoline prices to increase is compatible with granting subsidies to the working class. Velasquez notes that such increases have become inflationary, and he adds: "We are clearly saying that any increase we may have to establish, or that an Andres Velasquez government would authorize, would seek a balance between production costs and gasoline costs." The Radical Cause candidate indicates some compensation measures will have to be implemented until the workers' purchasing power becomes strong enough to handle the increases. He concludes by noting he does not have a final position "on the policy we will establish," because his advisers are studying this matter "to see what kind of measures can be adopted" to lessen the burden on low-income people.

Velasquez is then questioned on agricultural topics. He is asked what he plans to do to help this sector overcome the "backward" state it is in as a result of the policies implemented since 1989 and as a result of protectionism by the EC, the United States, and Asian nations. Velasquez assures the audience he will declare agricultural production a top priority and a matter of national sovereignty, security, and defense. He says, "Sovereignty also depends on being self-sufficient in food."

Velasquez is then asked what aspects of the nation's current economic policy he will continue. Without directly answering the question, he affirms he will adopt a flexible stance, although he notes the importance of cleaning up public services before making a decision on the matter, because taxpayers are concerned about how their money is spent. When pressed to state what measures he will let stand, Velasquez replies: "The search for integration is good and important. I want to assure you, businessmen and merchants, that we will do our best to stimulate the country's integration with the world economy."

The representative from the industrial sector asks Velasquez if he will continue the privatization program, and, if so, what changes will he introduce. In his response, Velasquez supports privatization, but adds, "We must ensure it is the best business for the state and benefits the people and workers." The candidate adds that in the case of the Guayana enterprises, the government lacks a strategic policy, other "than its need to get rid of those enterprises" because it cannot afford to maintain them. He also criticizes the government for failing to clearly report how the resources obtained from the sale of these enterprises will be spent.

Velasquez is then asked whether he supports the idea of paying for part of the Venezuelan foreign debt by increasing oil production and selling this oil to the United States for its strategic reserves. Velasquez also is asked if he will support stimulating Venezuelan participation in producing light crude in other countries to compensate for its heavy crude. He replies: "I fully agree with this." In the candidate's opinion, "we must strengthen Venezuelan Petroleum, raise production, and encourage joint ventures." Although he supports the nation's membership in OPEC, he does not "understand why we must feel tied to the organization." He adds, "I consider this an open question for me and my entire team of advisers." He also says, "Our national interest and the needs we have to defend, namely, our production, quotas, and prices, come first."

At the conclusion of the forum, Velasquez asks for a few more minutes to say that on 5 December Venezuelans are not just choosing a president, "but the future of the fatherland as well." He invites the voters to cast their ballots and reinforce the tradition of democracy in the country. "Because I am certain I will be the next president, I want to thank the entire country, with 15 days still to go before the elections, for electing me."